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**Re: Partnership Request: Community Bike & Traffic Safety Event — City Hall Parking Lot, May 17, 2026**

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**From** Todd Sebastian <tsebastian@ci.lathrop.ca.us>  
**Date** Mon 3/30/2026 3:44 PM  
**To** Torie Cortez <torie.cortez@dismalfreedompress.org>  
**Cc** Dismal Freedom Press <newsroom@dismalfreedompress.org>

Dear Ms. Cortez,

Thank you for your email and for sharing details about your proposed Bike and Traffic Safety Education Event. Coordination for bike and traffic safety education initiatives are handled through the Lathrop Police Department. I would recommend reaching out directly to Police Chief Stephen Sealy, who would be the appropriate point of contact for this type of event. Thank you

Yours in Service,

**TODD SEBASTIAN, CPRP**

OFFICE (209) 941-7370

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[tsebastian@ci.lathrop.us.ca](mailto:tsebastian@ci.lathrop.us.ca)

**DIRECTOR**

Parks, Recreation, and Fleet

390 Towne Centre Dr.

Lathrop, CA 95330



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**From:** Torie Cortez <torie.cortez@dismalfreedompress.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2026 8:00 AM  
**To:** Todd Sebastian <tsebastian@ci.lathrop.ca.us>  
**Cc:** Dismal Freedom Press <newsroom@dismalfreedompress.org>  
**Subject:** Partnership Request: Community Bike & Traffic Safety Event — City Hall Parking Lot, May 17, 2026

Dear Director Sebastian,

My name is Torie Cortez. I am the publisher and managing editor of Dismal Freedom Press, an independent investigative newsroom covering education, civil rights, and community issues across California's Central Valley, and a Lathrop-area parent.

I am writing to invite the Lathrop Parks, Recreation & Maintenance Services Department to co-present a free community Bike and Traffic Safety Education Event on Saturday, May 17, 2026 — the final day of National Bike to Work Week and during National Bicycle Safety Month.

I submitted a formal request to Mayor Paul Akinjo and the full City Council on March 23, 2026, requesting use of the City Hall parking lot at 390 Towne Centre Dr for this event. I am reaching out to your department directly because this event is exactly the kind of active, family-oriented community programming that Parks & Recreation is uniquely positioned to support.

## ABOUT THE EVENT

This is a free, half-day family event focused on community education around California's bike and traffic safety laws. Programming includes:

- Free helmet fittings and safety gear distribution
- A kids' bike skills course in the City Hall parking lot
- Driver education on California yield laws (CVC §§ 21804, 21950) and distracted driving
- Cyclist and family education on rights of way, hand signals, and road rules
- Co-presentation by Safe Kids San Joaquin County and the San Joaquin Bike Coalition
- Lathrop PD community outreach participation
- Full editorial coverage by Dismal Freedom Press

## WHY YOUR DEPARTMENT IS A NATURAL PARTNER

Parks & Recreation runs Lathrop's youth development programs, special events calendar, and active recreation programming. A bike safety event is a direct extension of that mission — and having your department co-present adds institutional credibility that will help us secure sponsors and community attendance.

## PARTNERSHIP REQUEST

We are asking Parks & Recreation to:

1. Co-present the event as a named city department partner
2. Assist with logistics coordination for use of the City Hall parking lot
3. Promote the event through your department's channels and the 2026 Special Events Calendar
4. Participate in programming if your staff has relevant expertise or resources

Please respond in writing to [newsroom@dismalfreedompress.org](mailto:newsroom@dismalfreedompress.org). I am also available to present to the Parks and Recreation Commission at their next meeting if that would be helpful.

Thank you for everything your department does for Lathrop families.

Respectfully,

Torie Cortez  
Publisher & Managing Editor  
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