

---

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

---

**From** Todd Sebastian <tsebastian@ci.lathrop.ca.us>  
**Date** Mon 3/30/2026 1:38 PM  
**To** Thomas Hedegard <thedegard@ci.lathrop.ca.us>

Yours in Service,

**TODD SEBASTIAN, CPRP**

OFFICE (209) 941-7370

DIRECT (209) 941-7384

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

**DIRECTOR**

Parks, Recreation, and Fleet

390 Towne Centre Dr.

Lathrop, CA 95330



---

**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  
Dismal Freedom Press  
[dismalfreedom.press](http://dismalfreedom.press)  
[newsroom@dismalfreedompress.org](mailto:newsroom@dismalfreedompress.org)

(209) 425-2677

--

\*— DISMAL FREEDOM PRESS —\*

\*An Investigative Newsroom of Rooted Creative  
Group LLC\*

\*Contact & Inquiries\*

\*Newsroom:\*

newsroom@dismalfreedompress.org <<mailto:newsroom@dismalfreedompress.org>> |

\*Tips:\* tips@dismalfreedompress.org <<mailto:tips@dismalfreedompress.org>>

\*Office:\* (209) 425-2677 | \*Web:\* [dismalfreedom.press](http://dismalfreedom.press)

<<https://dismalfreedom.press>>

\*Service Area:\* Central Valley & San  
Francisco Bay Area

\*Right of Reply (Stage C Safeguard)\*

DFP invites

relevant comment prior to publication to ensure accuracy and fairness.

Responses to reporter inquiries should be directed to the newsroom or the  
specific investigator assigned to the matter.

\*Transparency &  
Documentation\*

Consistent with DFP OPS Section 2, we prioritize  
documentation over commentary. Source documents are published alongside  
reporting when lawful, verified, and safe.

\*Public Records Notice (CPRA /  
FOIA)\*

Communications with public agencies may be subject to disclosure  
under the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code § 7920.000 et seq.) or  
the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552). DFP maintains a  
disciplined records-building posture for all investigations.

\*Confidentiality & Security\*

This message is for the intended recipient(s).

If received in error, please notify the sender. DFP advises against  
transmitting passwords or highly sensitive personal data via unencrypted  
email. Use our Tip line for initial outreach regarding sensitive  
disclosures.

\*© 2026 Rooted Creative Group LLC dba Dismal Freedom Press.  
All rights reserved.\*