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

From DFP Staff <newsroom@dismalfreedompress.org>
Date Fri 3/27/2026 12:13 AM
To tsebastian@ci.lathrop.ca.us <tsebastian@ci.lathrop.ca.us>
Cc Dismal Freedom Press <newsroom@dismalfreedompress.org>

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

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

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. 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
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