

Re: Request: Community Bike & Traffic Safety Education Event at City Hall — May 2026

From Tracie Shea <tshea@ci.lathrop.ca.us>

Date Tue 3/24/2026 11:31 AM

To Stephen Sealy <ssealy@ci.lathrop.ca.us>; Brian Hernandez <bhernandez@ci.lathrop.ca.us>

 1 attachment (3 MB)

25-OTS-E-bike-E-Scooter-85X11_w LPD logo.pdf;

Chief,

I am including a brief summary below of the education and enforcement we have done and have planned regarding pedestrian/bicyclist traffic safety:

River Islands High School parent presentation by Traffic Unit and SROs in October (due to low turnout, model was shifted to be student oriented).

Steam Academy parent and student safety presentation by SROs in January.

Mossdale Elementary School student safety presentation by Traffic Unit and SROs in February.

We will continue to fine tune the presentation based on feedback and schedule more school presentations in April and May.

The attached flyer was sent to schools by Sgt Dominguez in February.

Helmet use enforcement events at Lathrop High School and LHS were conducted in January: 60+ stops and 27 citations issued. Similar enforcement operations are planned at other schools in the coming months.

Social media posts specifically referencing e-bike and e-scooter safety were published in January and February.

Overall traffic enforcement year to year has increased (42% increase in enforcement operations, 67% increase in traffic stops, and 126% increase in citations issued).

Multiple emails have been sent to staff emphasizing ped/bicycle/scooter safety as a priority.

School traffic enforcement schedule was created in Aug and updated in Feb to assign Traffic, SRO, and CSO personnel to each school daily during drop off/pick times on a rotating basis.

We coordinate with Parks and Rec to offer the Bike Rodeo during the city's summer camp (June/July) and at the Touch a Truck event (Aug 15, 2026). The current Bike Rodeo curriculum covers the programming requested by Ms. Cortez. This year, we will also offer a Bicycle Safety School event (May 16, 2026 location TBD) as part of our OTS grant commitments, along with social media education during Bicycle Safety Month (May). All of our bicycle safety materials have been updated to address the specific requirements and risks associated to e-bikes and e-scooters.

This topic is also a main component of our Slow Down Lathrop campaign, which is on track to launch April 1 and includes student engagement through the art contest and safety pledge.

If you have any questions or requests, I will make myself available.

Captain Shea

From: Stephen Sealy <ssealy@ci.lathrop.ca.us>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 10:15 AM
To: Tracie Shea <tshea@ci.lathrop.ca.us>; Brian Hernandez <bhernandez@ci.lathrop.ca.us>
Subject: Fw: Request: Community Bike & Traffic Safety Education Event at City Hall — May 2026

Thoughts?



STEPHEN SEALY
CHIEF OF POLICE

LATHROP POLICE DEPARTMENT

940 River Islands Parkway, Lathrop, CA 95330

Phone: (209) 647-6403 Cell: (209) 699-2284

Email: ssealy@ci.lathrop.ca.us

From: Jennifer Torres - O'Callaghan <jtorres@ci.lathrop.ca.us>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2026 7:59 PM
To: Stephen Salvatore <ssalvatore@ci.lathrop.ca.us>; Stephen Sealy <ssealy@ci.lathrop.ca.us>
Subject: Fwd: Request: Community Bike & Traffic Safety Education Event at City Hall — May 2026

Good evening! This email reached me today / this evening I thought perhaps (instead of city hall parking lot) there might be a safety event already planned by the city (parks) and or hosted by LPD for bike safety month that might work for this residents request. I am forwarding this onto you both in the hopes there may be a way to accomate her request as part of our safety campaign in Lathrop ??

Thanks for any and all help ...

As a gentle reminder , I will be off tomorrow for my dad's funeral and traveling on Wednesday to a conference so my response time may be a little slower.

Jennifer

JENNIFER TORRES-O'CALLAGHAN

(she/her/hers)

Vice Mayor

City of Lathrop

Tel: (209) 941-7216

390 Towne Centre Drive
Lathrop, CA 95330

Begin forwarded message:

From: Torie Cortez <torie.cortez@dismalfreedompress.org>

Date: March 23, 2026 at 7:53:10 PM PDT

To: Paul Akinjo <pakinjo@ci.lathrop.ca.us>

Cc: Jennifer Torres - O'Callaghan <jtorres@ci.lathrop.ca.us>, Minnie Diallo <mdiallo@ci.lathrop.ca.us>, Diane Lazard <dlazard@ci.lathrop.ca.us>, Stephen Dresser <sdresser@ci.lathrop.ca.us>

Subject: Request: Community Bike & Traffic Safety Education Event at City Hall — May 2026

Dear Mayor Akinjo,

My name is Torie Cortez. I am the publisher of Dismal Freedom Press, an independent newsroom covering education, civil rights, and community issues across the Central Valley — and I am also a Lathrop-area parent. We have had the pleasure of meeting you at a community holiday event, and I have a great photo of my whole family with you from that day. I would be happy to share it if you would like a reminder of the occasion.

I am writing to formally request that the City of Lathrop host a free, family-oriented Bike and Traffic Safety Education Event in the City Hall parking lot during May 2026, in recognition of National Bicycle Safety Month.

This is not simply an event about wearing helmets. This is about the law — and the fact that too many drivers in our community do not know it, and too many cyclists and families do not know their rights under it.

Under California law, drivers must yield to cyclists and pedestrians at driveways (CVC § 21804). Cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as motor vehicle operators on public roadways (CVC § 21200). Distracted driving is a criminal infraction. These are not obscure rules — they are the law — and the gap between what the law requires and what is happening on Lathrop streets is putting children in danger.

I am writing this letter because my family has lived that danger firsthand. I have personally been nearly struck by vehicles four times while riding with my children this spring. More urgently: within the last 30 days, my daughter Camryn was nearly struck by a distracted driver who failed to yield while exiting the driveway at Mossdale Landing Elementary School during after-school program hours.

The children who witnessed this incident were students enrolled in the after-school program — students who were unsupervised at the time because the staff member responsible for supervising them was not present with them. It was only when I began shouting in response to the near-miss that the staff member came outside. I have filed a formal complaint with MUSD regarding this supervision failure and am placing the driveway safety conditions at Mossdale Landing on record with the City.

The event I am requesting would address these gaps directly. Proposed programming:

- Driver education on California's yield laws at driveways and bike lanes (CVC §§ 21804,

21950)

- Cyclist and family education on rights of way, hand signals, and road rules
- Distracted driving awareness
- Free helmet fittings and safety gear distribution
- A kids' bike skills course in the parking lot
- Tabling by Safe Kids San Joaquin County (SJC Public Health, (209) 468-2699) and the San Joaquin Bike Coalition
- Participation from Lathrop PD community outreach

This event would require no city budget beyond the use of the parking lot. Dismal Freedom Press would provide full editorial coverage, giving the City a visible, community-facing story to share with residents.

You have spoken publicly about the importance of safe infrastructure for children who bike and walk in Lathrop. This event is an opportunity to demonstrate that commitment at zero cost — before a child in our community is seriously hurt.

I would welcome the opportunity to speak at the April 13 council meeting or to connect with the appropriate city staff member regarding logistics and permitting. I can be reached at this email address or by phone.

Thank you, Mayor Akinjo, for your time and your continued service to Lathrop families.

Respectfully,

--

Torie Cortez

Publisher & Managing Editor

Member, National Writers Union (NWU)

Member, Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ)

— **DISMAL FREEDOM PRESS** — *An Investigative Newsroom of Rooted Creative Group LLC*

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