

January 10, 2007

Dear Newport Harbor High School Parent:

The high volume of traffic congestion around Newport Harbor High School during the morning arrival and afternoon dismissal times is a potential safety hazard for students and commuters. The Parents, Newport Mesa School District, Newport Beach Police Department, and City of Newport Beach all have the responsibility of making sure that students get to and from school safely. In an effort to create a safer environment, the Police Department has been patrolling during peak times to make sure students are dropped off and picked up in a legal and safe manner. If you are driving a student to and from school, we are asking that you be aware of the signs and curb markings that restrict stopping or parking and that you follow the directions of those signs and markings. It is ultimately your responsibility as a driver of a vehicle to be aware of these restrictions around the schools.

The red curbs designate no parking or stopping at any time. This would include dropping off or picking up students. The "No Stopping Anytime" signs along Irvine Ave. from 16<sup>th</sup> St. to Beacon St. are extremely important for drivers to obey. These signs are meant to keep vehicle traffic out of the clearly marked bike lane. Students riding their bicycles to school use this bike lane extensively. When a vehicle stops in the bike lane, the bicyclists are forced into a lane of traffic creating a potentially dangerous situation.

The Fire Marshall or City Traffic Engineer determines which curbs are painted red as well as the stopping restrictions along Irvine Ave. The Police Department is tasked with enforcing the parking or stopping restrictions and works closely with Traffic Engineering to identify solutions to help ease and clarify traffic patterns around the schools.

The enforcement of traffic laws has proven to be effective and necessary in preventing collisions, unnecessary traffic delays, and for the overall safety of those who use the roadways. However, it is our preference to seek compliance through letters such as these rather than the issuance of citations. Thank you very much for taking the time to read this notice and helping us keep your children safe.

Sincerely,

Steve Shulman, Lieutenant  
Traffic Services Division