



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **Vancouver Police Begin School Zone Enforcement Efforts**

On September 5, 2012 school starts in both the Evergreen and Vancouver School Districts. The Vancouver Police Department will be conducting additional enforcement in and around school zones. In addition to the 20 mph limit in school zones, the Traffic Unit and Vancouver Police Patrol Officers will also be focusing on school bus paddle stop violations, the anti-texting law, cell phone hands free law, seatbelt law, child passenger safety laws and bike helmet laws as part of this effort. These enforcement efforts will be done citywide and throughout the school year with an increased focus the first month of school as drivers and students get re-familiarized with the changes to speed and traffic flow that the start of school brings.

Drivers may notice some revisions to signage, traffic control or traffic flow in and around school parking lots. These changes are for the safety of students and also to provide more convenience to drivers entering or exiting parking lots. Drivers should be aware of and obey all signage and traffic controls as these are in place to maintain safety for everyone.

Regardless of whether drivers are in a school zone, the Vancouver Police Department encourages drivers to monitor their speed when traveling through areas where students may be walking or riding bikes on their way to school and obey all other laws that pertain to safe and attentive driving. Extra attentiveness by drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists is vital for safety and can save a life.

Parents with kids returning to school are reminded that anyone riding a bicycle, roller skates, in-line skates, skateboard, or scooter needs to wear a helmet in the City of Vancouver. Here is a link to more information on the bike helmet ordinance and bicyclist safety laws:

<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/police.asp?policeID=31530&policeSubID=57578>

Also, child passenger safety laws require children less than 13 years of age to ride in the back seat when practical. Here is more information related to child passenger safety:

<http://www.cityofvancouver.us/police.asp?policeID=31530&policeSubID=31594&itemID=31646>.

To emphasize the need for slower speeds in school zones and obeying the speed limit, here is some startling information on risk of death to pedestrians based on vehicle speed:

### **Pedestrian Fatality Risk at Various Striking Vehicle Speeds**

<b>Vehicle Speed</b>	<b>Fatality Risk</b>
14 MPH	5%
<b>21 MPH</b>	<b>10%</b>
25 MPH	25%
28 MPH	58%
<b>30 MPH</b>	<b>75%</b>
35 MPH	99%

For more information on traffic safety or the Vancouver Police Traffic Unit visit the Vancouver Police Department online at [www.vanpolice.org](http://www.vanpolice.org). To view Vancouver Police Department traffic safety public service announcements visit us on You Tube at:

<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCE02AFEC2A9051CA&feature=plcp>

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