

# Neighborhood Improvement

Neighborhood Grants, Home Improvement Rebates, Neighborhood Cleanups and Graffiti Removal, Community Police Centers, Safety Programs, Shopping Cart Enforcement



## Long Beach Family Safety Initiative Program Comes to a Successful End

On September 30, 2009, the **Neighborhood Services Bureau (NSB)** completed a two-year program: the **Long Beach Family Safety Initiative- (LBFSI) Child Passenger Safety (CPS), Bicycle, and Pedestrian Education Program**, funded by the **California Office of Traffic Safety**.

The primary goal of the project was to develop a multilingual, multicultural child program to educate parents with children six years-old and younger on the California CPS laws, types of vehicle occupant restraint systems, elements of correct car seat installation, and to provide approved safety seats to low-income families that participated in a CPS workshop. The program was a success in providing the education and tools needed to families with children! During the two-year program, education was provided to **1,272 adults** through **93 CPS presentations**, and a total of **1,165 child safety seats** were distributed to low-income families that attended a CPS workshop. In addition, a total of **14 bicycle rodeos** were organized, where youth could get their bicycles inspected, obtain free bicycle licenses, and participate in a challenging bicycle obstacle course. A total of **1,274 youth** participating in the rodeos and **1,511 bicycle helmets** were distributed. In addition to the items provided, safety seat checkups were performed both at larger events and at individual appointments to inspect **57 child restraints** for **44 families** were completed.

Despite the end of the program funding, the NSB is continuing to make use of an acquired tool during the program, a 40-foot long banner with the word "**SCREECH!**" emblazoned on it with a traffic safety message that teaches young children about cars' breaking distances. The Bureau continues to loan the banner to be displayed at schools or other community events. Look for it throughout the year at a school near you!

For more information, please contact **Martha Villacres** at **(562) 570-1010** or **martha.villacres@longbeach.gov**.

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## Good Kids Get New Bikes

On September 19, 2009, there was a neighborhood clean up in the **Lower West Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) area**, the **City of Long Beach, Public Works Environmental Services Bureau** provided a powered rear loader refuse truck to collect and compress illegally dumped items. More than thirty volunteers came to help. Two nine year-old boys parked their bikes in the area of accumulated trash and went to volunteer to clean the alleys. When they came back, they were advised that the truck driver accidentally put the two bicycles into the refuse truck's crusher by mistake. Fortunately, with some help from Lower West NIS area coordinator **Teresa Gonzalez**, the two kids had their bicycles replaced in October, thanks to the generosity of **David San Jose** of the **90800 Program** and **Magi Mejorado** of the **Family Safety Initiative**.



For more information, please contact **Teresa Gonzalez** at **(562) 570-1146** or [teresa.gonzalez@longbeach.gov](mailto:teresa.gonzalez@longbeach.gov).

## MacArthur Park Neighborhood Clean-Up

A successful cleanup was held on Saturday October 24, 2009. **Fatima Lazo** and the **Anaheim Street Community Police Center Advisory Board** sponsored a neighborhood cleanup in the **MacArthur Park Neighborhood Improvement Strategy Area**. The meeting location was 1345 Walnut Avenue. Thirty-two (32) residents and business owners came out and collected illegally dumped trash, debris and large items that resulted in collecting nine tons of trash! The event provided an opportunity for the neighbors to work together to improve the physical appearance of their surroundings.



For more information, please contact Bryant Ben at **(562) 570-1691** or [bryant.ben@longbeach.gov](mailto:bryant.ben@longbeach.gov).