



# SHERIFF'S OFFICE

A TRADITION OF SERVICE SINCE 1856

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## NEWS RELEASE

**Incident Date:** Tuesday, January 22, 2019

**Location:** San Carlos, California

**Type of Crime/Incident:** **Special Traffic Enforcement Detail**

### Summary:

On Tuesday, January 22, 2019, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office increased pedestrian safety enforcement in the City of San Carlos. The focused enforcement was to address the primary collision causing violations involving motorists and pedestrians. Additional pedestrian enforcement details are planned to take place throughout San Mateo County in the near future.

Pedestrian fatalities are rising in California as more people are using bikes, scooters, skateboards, and walking as means of transportation. The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office tracked locations where pedestrian involved collisions occurred over the past two years as well as the types of violations that led to those collisions. Sheriff's Office personnel saturated these areas to address and enforce those collision causing factors. The detail resulted in **79 citations** in the City of San Carlos. Most of the violations were for failure to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk. Other citations were also issued for cell phone related violations, failing to obey posted signs/markings, unsafe turning movements, illegal U-turns, and mechanical violations. Throughout the detail, deputies had the opportunity to educate many drivers and pedestrians regarding safe traffic practices.

A recent National Highway Traffic Safety study revealed pedestrians and drivers did not obey laws and signals consistently and many people often used cell phones to text or listen to music while walking or driving. These types of distractions were major contributors to the number of collisions tabulated. The same study also said that only 60 percent of pedestrians expected drivers to stop when they were in crosswalks, even though pedestrians should have legally had the right-of-way. The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office would like to remind pedestrians to use crosswalks or cross the street at the corner where drivers have better visibility, and not to cross the street when a vehicle is approaching.

Release Date:

January 23, 2019

