



JOSE HUIZAR
COUNCILMEMBER, 14TH DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT:

Rick Coca, (213) 473-5807, (213) 200-9974 cell
Rick.Coca@lacity.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Councilmember José Huizar Announces Safety Improvements in Eagle Rock Following Fatal Crash

Speed enforcement campaign, new surveillance cameras and red-light configurations among changes

LOS ANGELES (Oct. 16, 2008) – Councilmember José Huizar’ and LAPD officials announced today the results of a traffic enforcement campaign, a reconfiguring of lights along Colorado Boulevard, new surveillance cameras and other safety related developments in Northeast Los Angeles, following a high-speed collision in Eagle Rock that left four people and an unborn baby dead.

In the six weeks since the tragic August 27 collision, which occurred on Colorado Boulevard, police have issued more than 600 traffic citations in the area, a high percentage of those for speeding tickets with drivers going as fast as 55 mph in a 35 mph zone.

“As City officials, we can place as many barriers and deterrents as we possibly can to slow traffic down on our major thoroughfares like Colorado Boulevard, but speeding is ultimately a personal decision made by individuals,” Huizar said. “We want to remind people that it can lead to much more serious ramifications than a traffic ticket. As this recent incident illustrates, it can have tragic consequences.”

Huizar also announced that more than a year ago at the Councilmember’s request, CalTrans and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation collaborated to place a speed-sensitive light at the 134 Freeway off ramp to slow traffic down as drivers exited the freeway and onto Colorado Boulevard. The sensor triggers the exit light to automatically turn red if drivers are traveling at more than 35 mph when exiting the freeway.

And following the recent collision, LADOT has implemented a rarely used pilot program in traffic-choked Los Angeles along Colorado Boulevard. From 9 p.m. to 5 a.m., between Maywood and Townsend Avenues, lights will be configured with periodic red lights so that drivers do not have a “straight shot” of green lights.

(more)

Councilmember Huizar announces safety improvements in Northeast Los Angeles

Page 2

Councilmember Huizar was joined today by officials from LAPD Northeast Division and Capt. Ronald Marbrey, commanding officer for Central Traffic Division.

“Working hand in hand with our partners at the Northeast Division, we are continuing our zero tolerance policy on traffic safety violations along Colorado Boulevard,” Capt. Marbrey said.

Councilmember Huizar also announced that after securing \$75,000 in Council office discretionary funds, about a dozen surveillance cameras will be going up in Eagle Rock and Highland Park.

The cameras were paid for in part by the local Chamber of Commerce and the Eagle Rock and Highland Park Neighborhood Councils. A few of the cameras are already up and running in Eagle Rock. The others should be operating by the end of the year. The cameras, which will run 24-hours a day, seven days a week and be monitored by LAPD’s Northeast Division, will eventually offer local free Wi-Fi service in some of the business corridors in both areas.

In the works long before the crash and another high-profile sexual assault this summer, the cameras could help police in future investigations.

“Eagle Rock has a small town feel,” Huizar said. “Crime is low. We want to maintain that atmosphere and we’re doing everything we possibly can to do just that.”

###