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**“Click It or Ticket” newspaper article from the Contra Costa County Times and the El Cerrito Wire.**

## **El Cerrito joins California’s Click It or Ticket Campaign through June 5**

Source: El Cerrito Police Department

243 Police Agencies in the State of California will be involved with the seatbelt safety campaign known as “Click It or Ticket.” The traffic Safety Division of the El Cerrito Police Department will be conducting directed patrols throughout the City during this period.

Traffic Sergeant Steve Bonini is warning drivers and passengers that El Cerrito Police Department officers will be issuing tickets to persons not wearing seatbelts. While officers will be writing tickets, compliance with the law, saving lives and preventing injuries is the goal. The 961 vehicle occupants killed in California crashes who did not wear their seat belts had one thing in common: they did not believe it could happen to them.

“Wearing a seatbelt saves lives and helps prevent serious injury during crashes. What does it take to get people to buckle up”, said Sgt Bonini. The maximum fine for a seatbelt violation for a person over 16 years of age is \$91 for a first offense and approximately \$193 for a second offense. California courts are very serious when children under 16 are not properly secured in a vehicle. If cited, drivers may receive one “point count” on their driving record with a maximum fine for a first offense of \$340, which increases to \$871 for a second offense. “These amounts pale in comparison to the cost to society for each death or injury that could be prevented by wearing a seatbelt,” says Sgt Bonini.

The 2005 California Seat Belt Use Survey revealed that 92.5% of vehicle occupants wear their seat belts. That leaves 2.7 million people who do not buckle up on California roadways with a strong chance of receiving a seat belt ticket during the three-week campaign.

California ranks 7th nationally in seat belt use. The six states ranking ahead of California are: Hawaii, 95.3%; Washington, 95.2%; Arizona, 94.2%; Oregon 93.3% and Michigan at 92.9%.

***Run dates: 2006-05-14 - 2006-06-05***

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## **Contra Costa Times and the El Cerrito Wire newspaper article for National Night Out – 2006.**

### **El Cerrito National Night Out receives national honor**

Source: City of El Cerrito

This year's 2006 National Night Out awards have been announced by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW). For the 3rd year in a row, the City of El Cerrito has been recognized as one of the top 50 community awareness programs in cities of its size in the United States for its innovative activities as part of National Night Out. The City has actively supported the award-winning program for the past nine years.

The 23rd annual National Night Out is a unique crime, drug and violence prevention program. The National Association of Town Watch reports that 2006 National Night Out was the largest event to date involving 35.2 million people in 1,125 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide.

"I am very honored that our City has been selected to receive this award, said Mayor Janet Abelson. Our Crime Prevention Committee, chaired by Mollie Hazen, has done an outstanding job of coordinating this important event."

National Night Out promotes neighborhood unity. National Night Out highlights the importance of citizen awareness and participation in preventing criminal activity. At the same time, El Cerrito residents have fun attending one of many block parties and other gatherings.

A special award recognizing the City's achievements will be given out by National Association of Town Watch within the next month.

"In being recognized for the 3rd year in a row by the NATW for the City's National Night Out program, this shows the importance that the City as a whole puts on crime prevention, said Corporal Detective Donald Horgan. We were ranked higher this year than last year. This award reflects the hard work put into the city-wide event by city staff, police and fire personnel and especially by the Crime Prevention Committee led by Mollie Hazen. Due to the outreach done during National Night Out, we have seen an increase of requests for home security checks and an awareness of crime related issues in the neighborhoods,"

El Cerrito's National Night Out program is produced by the El Cerrito Crime Prevention Committee in coordination with the El Cerrito Police Department.

For more information about National Night Out or to learn how your business or organization can get involved, contact (510) 215-4414, ext. 30.

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