

**Press  
Release****The City of Palo Alto**  
Public Information Office250 Hamilton Ave  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

04/17/2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE #041709

**Subject :**       **Police to Target Red-Light Runners****Contact :**       Agent Dan Ryan, Palo Alto Police Department   408.406.1330

**Palo Alto, CA** - Police in 14 local agencies will team up beginning next week to target red-light violations, Countywide. Sponsored by the Traffic Safety Community Network, all law enforcement agencies in the County will focus on red-light violators from April 20th through May-17th, 2009. This is in response to a continuing trend of collisions caused by red-light runners, collisions which injure over one thousand people in Santa Clara County each year.

Between 2003 and 2006, red-light scofflaws caused 4,485 collisions in this County. These crashes caused 4,231 injuries and 13 deaths. Each of those 13 deaths was preventable, said Dr. Martin Fenstersheib, the Santa Clara County Health Officer, and Co-Chair of this year's campaign. The total estimated economic loss from these collision-related injuries and deaths is over 500 million dollars.

Accordingly, police will add extra patrols to target this violation, and motorists can expect to see traffic officers at extra intersections to help spread the safety message in the coming four weeks. Those who are cited can expect to pay a minimum fine of \$340.00, and can expect to pay higher insurance bills for years to come, if convicted.

Acting Chief Dennis Burns said that the risk made to run a red light is not worth the cost; particularly when it comes to risking injury or death. "Slow for the yellow, and stop for the red"!

###