





*Town of Atherton*  
DEPARTMENT OF  
POLICE



June 1, 2018

Open Letter to the Local Bicyclist Community

**"Roadway Safety is a TWO-WAY street for Bicyclists and Motorists"**

May was bicycle safety month which always serves as a good reminder for cyclists and motorists that roadway safety is a two-way street and is everyone's responsibility. The Atherton Police Department always advocates and promotes bicycle safety to strongly encourage everyone to share the road safely, responsibly, and respectfully. Bicycling is an excellent way to enjoy the beautiful streets and neighborhoods of Atherton.

Fortunately, bicycle collisions, injuries, and deaths in California and in Atherton have been on a steady decline for several years. This is attributed to California legislation which addresses road safety for bicyclists and motorists. Legislation and rules of the road require cyclists like other roadway users to pull over and let other vehicles pass if 5 or more vehicles are lined up behind them. California motorists are required to give bicyclists three feet of clearance when possible. If it is not possible, motorists are required to slow down and pass safely.

One of the most common complaints our department receives from our residents related to traffic safety is the failure of bicyclists to follow the rules of the road, in particular, failing to stop for stop signs. In order to help ensure the safety of both bicyclists and motorists, our officers will be taking a two-prong response approach during the summer months. One is an educational approach through the use of bicyclist/motorist traffic safety and education events. The second is random traffic safety enforcement emphasis with a concentration on stop sign and right of way violations.

Motorists are reminded to expect bicyclists on the roadway, be patient on narrow roads, and to always share the road. Bicyclists are reminded to go with the traffic flow, ride in the same direction as other vehicles, and to obey all traffic laws.

Using a "No Call Too Small" philosophy and positive approach to proactive law enforcement, one of the main missions of the officers and professional support staff of the Atherton Police Department is to provide the highest level of safety, service, and security.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'SD McCulley'.

Steven D. McCulley  
Chief of Police