



Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition  
634 S. Spring St. Suite 821  
Los Angeles, CA 90014  
Phone 213.629.2142  
Facsimile 213.629.2259  
www.la-bike.org

June 4, 2010

Honorable Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa  
200 North Spring Street, Ste. 303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Honorable Mayor Villaraigosa,

By now you are probably familiar with the videotaped incident of police brutality against bicycle riders on Friday May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010. If not, view the YouTube video titled, "Hollywood Cops Attack Bike Riders."

We are pleased that Chief Beck promptly removed the five involved officers from active duty, and has promised a full investigation. This incident is one in a pattern of ongoing police disrespect for bicyclists.

We urge you to ensure that police officers are trained in fair, responsible, and safe treatment of bicyclists. In addition, we urge LAPD to actively support the bicycling community by partnering to sponsor bicycle events, including the street opening event CicLAvia.

The city's discriminatory treatment of bicyclists, though, is a problem that extends beyond just the police department. We believe it is rooted in the cultures of multiple city departments, most prominently the Department of Transportation.

Other cities, including San Francisco under the leadership of Mayor Willie Brown, responded to similar police vs. bicyclist with the creation of on-street bicycle facilities. Los Angeles police take cues from our built environment. Our current street configurations and their lack of infrastructure for bike transportation show that bicyclists are not valued and not welcome here.

We urge you to work with the LADOT to immediately implement multiple high-profile bicycle lane projects already approved in the city's 1996 Bicycle Master Plan and the 2009 Downtown Street Standards. This will go a long way toward generating goodwill among the bike community, enhancing safety for all riders, and curtailing incidents of hostility towards cyclists.



Further, we urge you to step forward and publicly voice your support for bicycling as a valid means of transportation in the City of Los Angeles. Your silence on bicycling issues has led many in the city's cycling community to conclude that you oppose bicycling on our streets, and provides tacit support for those who do, both within the LAPD and other city departments, and with the public at large.

The Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition is a resource for cyclists throughout the County, and we look forward to working with you to make Los Angeles' streets more bike-friendly and safer for all. Thank you for considering this very important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Klausner".

Jennifer Klausner  
Executive Director  
Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition

cc: LAPD Chief Charlie Beck, LAPD Sergeant David Krumer