

PUBLIC WORKS

It's in The Bag

Sanitation gives away reusable bags to encourage conservation.

Story and photos by Tanya R. Edwards, Club Counselor



"Reduce, Reuse, Then Recycle" was the theme of the Reusable Bag Giveaway event held June 28 at the LA Mall. Sanitation's Zero Waste Program hosted the educational outreach event, whose purpose was to promote re-use and discourage waste.

Participants were encouraged to sign a pledge card in exchange for the free bag stamped with the reminder to "Bring Your Bag Every Day." The pledge card served as a commitment to use the bags when shopping and helping to conserve the City's valuable resources. Local restaurants at the LA Mall offered additional incentive to participants by offering discounts to those who showed their bags.

Sanitation gave away more than 500 bags. Congratulations go to the Bureau and its Zero Waste Program for the great success of the event. *Thanks to Michelle Mikesell, Management Analyst, Club Member, for coordinating the event.*



Gedina Bergstrom, Club Counselor, explains the benefits of Club membership.



Cynthia White, Club Member, and Norma Gutierrez, Human Resources, LAFD, stopped by to say hello and pick up their bags.



Robyn Guglielmo, part-time Clerk Typist, Sanitation, shared information on the benefits of recycling.



Michelle Mikesell, (New addition Club Member) Management Analyst I, Club Member, Sanitation's Solid Resources Citywide Recycling and event coordinator, encourages bag recipients to complete pledge cards.

LAPD

Officers Save A Woman

Quick action saves a woman from a burning car.

Story and photo courtesy LAPD

Two officers from the LAPD's Hollywood Area are being commended for their quick action and life saving heroism.

On June 27, LAPD Officers Michael Kim and Jimmy Lam were near Santa Monica Boulevard and Western Avenue helping fellow officers with traffic control in aftermath of a hit-and-run traffic collision there.

Unrelated to the traffic collision, Officer Kim saw a Dodge Caravan stopped at a nearby traffic light with heavy black smoke coming from underneath it. Officer Kim alerted his partner to the smoke, and both officers began walking toward the Caravan. As they neared the van, the bellowing smoke turned to flames.

Officers Lam and Kim immediately requested LAFD personnel to respond to put out the fire, and jumped into action to get the occupants out of the van. The van's driver was unaware and confused about the officers' actions and could not hear them giving her directions to get out, because the windows were closed. Officers Lam and Kim began pounding on the windows to alert the driver to the danger, but, overwhelmed and confused, the driver accidentally locked herself in the car, preventing the officers from getting to her.

Once the toxic black smoke began filling the inside of the van, the driver realized the grave danger she was in and was able to unlock the doors, but still unable to free herself from the vehicle because she was still strapped in her seatbelt. After both officers' efforts to unlock the seatbelt failed,



The scene of the incident.

Officer Kim used his pocketknife to cut away the seatbelt, allowing Officer Lam to pull the driver to safety. After safely removing the driver, Officer Lam saw a child seat in the rear seat and began to go back inside to rescue a child, but was told there was not a child in the car.

Without hesitation and putting their own safety at risk, both officers worked to remove the driver from the van, even as they were being exposed to extreme danger from the toxic thick smoke and hot flames engulfing the vehicle. Officers Lam and Kim used fire extinguishers from their police vehicles to fight the fire until LAFD arrived and put the stubborn fire out.

It was later discovered that the driver had been having mechanical problems with the van, and had smelled gasoline after filling her tank that morning. The driver was very grateful for the officers' efforts and believes that had it not been for their brave and selfless action, she would not have survived the ordeal.



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