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~ Office of the Chief ~
MEDIA RELEASE

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National School Bus Safety Week is October 20-24

Drivers are urged to slow down and be aware of school buses in their communities.

During National School Bus Safety Week (October 20-24, 2025), the Citrus Heights Police Department is reminding drivers of the dangers of passing a stopped school bus. When a school bus stop-arm is out and the red lights are flashing, drivers must come to a complete stop.

While riding the bus is the safest way for children to get to and from school, an alarming number of drivers illegally pass school buses that have their red lights activated. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), from 2000 to 2023, there were 61 fatalities in crashes involving a driver illegally passing a stopped school bus. Almost half of those deaths (26) were people 18 years old or younger who were walking.

With few exceptions, California law requires drivers to stop in both directions when a school bus has flashing red lights on. Drivers must stop until the red lights are off, and children are on or off the bus and safely out of the road.

"When a school bus's red lights are flashing and the stop-arm is extended, drivers have a legal responsibility to slow down and come to a complete stop," Sergeant Kane Kissam said. "Parents, caregivers, and children are relying on drivers to follow the law to keep them safe."

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