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Jefferson High School junior Stephanie Jimenez is happy her campus is now in a Safe School Zone.



Photos by Rich Morallo

Mayor, Officials Launch 'Safe School Zone' at 10 Area Schools

By RICH MORALLO

(Sept. 7, 2005) High school junior Stephanie Jimenez clapped with joy as Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa led school and city officials in unveiling a sign near the school's main entrance, Sept. 1, that declared Jefferson High School a "Safe School Zone".

Jimenez was even more elated when she learned that two of the signs had been installed at nearby Metro Bus stops on 41st Street at South Central and Compton avenues.

"I feel so much safer now," said Jimenez, who often rides Metro Line 55 to school. "People will know they will be punished for whatever bad they do."

The black and white signs, about four-by-three feet, proclaim that the neighborhoods around 10 schools are Safe School Zones. Persons who commit crimes there are subject to increased penalties.



Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, LAUSD officials and others gathered at Jefferson High to announce the Safe School Zone program.

Schools, bus stops safer

The zones cover areas within 1,000 feet of a school or within 100 feet of a designated bus stop during regular school hours, or within an hour before or after school activity.

Signs are posted both on and off campus in locations where students and the community have said they feel unsafe. Schools participating in the program, in addition to Jefferson High, are Fremont, Jordan, Locke Washington Prep, Van Nuys High, Gardena High, Belmont High, Los Angeles High and Markham Middle School.

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and the City of Los Angeles partnered to launch the model neighborhood program.

South Bay General Manager Dana Coffey and Sheriff's Lt. Mike Parker of the Transit Services Bureau participated in unveiling the program that drew applause from parents, students and residents in the community.