



# CITY OF LA PALMA NEWS RELEASE

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## Every 15 Minutes Program Held at Kennedy High School

*LA PALMA, Calif.* – On Thursday, April 20, 2017, Junior and Senior students at J. F. Kennedy High School in La Palma witnessed, first-hand, the dangers of drinking and driving.

Every 15 Minutes was a 2-day program that began with a reconstruction of a DUI crash scene in front of Kennedy High School, on Walker Street. The crash scene required 3 students to participate, one as the DUI suspect. The other two were victims, of the staged DUI crash. All Junior and Senior students arrived to watch as the La Palma Police Department and Orange County Fire Authority enacted the investigation of the accident including rescuing the survivor, removing the deceased, and ultimately arresting the student in the role of the DUI Suspect.



The program is based on the 1980's statistic that someone is killed in an alcohol-related incident, *every 15 minutes*. As the program continued throughout the day, a Junior or Senior student was removed from class every 15 minutes, portraying that the student was killed in a DUI crash.

On Friday, April 21, an assembly was held designed to enforce the message, by staging a mock funeral. The students involved in the program read letters illustrating their experience. In addition, parents of the students, whom play a role in the program also read letters about how the crash affected them and their family.

The La Palma Community Foundation, led by Mayor Michele Steggell was instrumental in raising the funds and creating the partnerships necessary in creating a program of this magnitude. Mayor Steggell commented that "teaching the severity of drinking and driving is important. It is a real issue that our young adults face today." Both she and Police Chief Terry Kim wanted to bring a program to La Palma that would have an impact on the students, a program that could potentially save lives for years to come.

### ***About the City of La Palma***

Ranked by Money Magazine in 2015, 2013, 2011, and 2007 as one of America's Best Places to Live, the City of La Palma is a 1.9 square mile general law city in northwest Orange County, consisting of over 15,568 residents and approximately 300 commercial and industrial businesses. The City was incorporated in 1955 under the name of Dairyland and has 52 full-time and 35 part-time employees.

### ***Contact Information***

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