



OFFICE OF WENDY GREUEL
City Councilmember, Second District

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**COUNCILMEMBER WENDY GREUEL KICKS-OFF SAFETY VALET
PROGRAM FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL WEEK**

Tujunga - Councilmember Wendy Greuel ushered in the new school year by kicking-off the city's Safety Valet program today at Pinewood Elementary School. The Safety Valet program improves traffic safety by training parent to monitor the area around schools to ensure drivers are following basic traffic laws to keep children safe as they arrive to school.

"This program eliminates the chaos of the morning school drop-off and creates a system that is efficient and safe," said Councilmember Greuel. "Parents no longer have to park or illegally stop to drop off their children Thanks to the Safety Valet program parents trust that their children will safely go from their cars into the classroom. Our volunteers are there to open the car door, direct the student to the entrance of the school, and keep the traffic flow moving."

The program is part of the Safe Corridors Program developed and run by the Commission for Children Youth and Their Families. Under this program, elementary schools are given a menu of options, including Safety Valet that will help improve the safety and traffic flow in and around their schools.

The Safety Valet program has been able to expand through the support and funding of a \$500,000 grant from the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS). In addition to the OTS money, Councilmember Greuel has pledged to fund an additional five elementary schools in her district in FY 05-06 with General City Purpose (GCP) funds, discretionary funds allotted to each council district.

As Chair of the City Council's Transportation committee, Councilmember Greuel is committed to finding common sense solutions to easing traffic congestion throughout the city.

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"The Safety Valet program serves two purposes that go hand-in-hand and that is to relieve traffic congestion around schools and to ensure that our children are safe," said Councilmember Greuel.

Through the collaboration of several City departments including the Mayor, City Council, City Attorney, Department of Transportation and Los Angeles Police Department Traffic Division, the parent and resident volunteers are educated, trained and supported on how to manage and maintain the program.

The City's Commission for Children, Youth and Their Families, along with the Los Angeles Police and Transportation Departments, are currently coordinating the valet program at 12 schools.

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