



# WESTPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

50 Jesup Road

Westport, Connecticut 06880-4385

Telephone: 203-341-6000 Fax: 203-341-6092

Foti Koskinas  
Chief of Police

## ***Law Enforcement to Apprehend Distracted Drivers with U Drive. U Text. U Pay. Enforcement Campaign***

[Westport, CT] - From April 2 to April 30, 2018, the Westport Police Department will be out in force looking for distracted drivers as part of the *U Drive. U Text. U Pay.* campaign, a high-visibility effort to enforce distracted driving laws.

Drivers are continuously ignoring their responsibilities behind the wheel, and distracted driving is a growing and deadly threat on our roadways. Westport PD is teaming up with the Connecticut Department of Transportation during the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) National Distracted Driving Awareness month to make sure all motorists keep their eyes on the road and their hands on the wheel.

"Distracted driving is a real problem," said Captain David Farrell. "During this enforcement period, officers will be ticketing anyone who is texting or on their phone while behind the wheel. The bottom line is if you text and drive, you will pay."

Violating Connecticut's distracted driving laws can be costly. Drivers who are ticketed for this violation can be fined \$150 for a first offense, \$300 for a second offense and \$500 for third and subsequent offenses.

According to the NHTSA, 3,450 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers in 2016. This is a 2-percent decrease in fatalities as compared to the previous year.

An analysis by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety of 2009-2012 data found that while more than 80 percent of drivers believed it was completely unacceptable for a motorist to text behind the wheel, more than a third of those same drivers admitted to reading text messages while operating a passenger motor vehicle themselves.

"We know your phone is your life, but don't let it cost you or someone else their life" said Captain Farrell.

The Westport Police Department and the Connecticut Department of Transportation urge you to put your phone down when you get behind the wheel. If you need to text, pull over and park your vehicle in a safe place first.

We ask that you remind your family and friends to never text and drive:

- Texting and driving is more than just personally risky. When you text and drive, you are a danger to everyone around you.



# WESTPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

50 Jesup Road

Westport, Connecticut 06880-4385

Telephone: 203-341-6000 Fax: 203-341-6092

Foti Koskinas  
Chief of Police

- No one likes to be criticized by a friend for doing something wrong, but it's even worse to get caught by law enforcement and have to pay a fine.
- Don't follow the pack, be a leader. When you get behind the wheel, be an example to your family and friends by putting your phone away.
- Speak up. If your friends are texting while driving, tell them to stop. Listen to your passengers; if they catch you texting while driving and tell you to put your phone away, put it down.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 4.3.2018**

**Contact: Lieutenant Jillian Cabana**

**203.341.6009**