



WESTPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

50 Jesup Road

Westport, Connecticut 06880-4385

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

Foti Koskinas
Chief of Police

Press Release

***CLICK IT OR TICKET* CAMPAIGN REMINDS PEOPLE TO BUCKLE UP FOR SAFETY!**

Westport Police wrote 37 seat belt citations

The Westport Police Department successfully brought awareness to area residents during its annual *Click It or Ticket* high-visibility seat belt enforcement campaign, held May 21st-June 3rd, writing 37 citations for seat belt violations in the process. The campaign, which coincided with one of the busiest holiday weekends of the year, was twofold: combine increased enforcement, and a zero-tolerance policy with effective communication to road users on the importance of seat belt use.

“This year’s *Click It or Ticket* campaign was a real success,” said Captain David Farrell “Through our enforcement efforts, we believe we helped keep community members safe and reminded drivers of the importance of buckling up. Issuing tickets was not our goal, but it was a way to remind people of the importance of such a simple action.”

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, nearly half of the passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes in 2016 were unrestrained. During this year’s campaign, NHTSA urged law enforcement nationwide to issue seat belt citations to anyone caught in violation of the law—during the day, and especially at night, when 56 percent of those killed are unrestrained. By adding patrols at night, and training officers on specific techniques to catch nighttime violators, the campaign—and the nighttime focus—was a “major success,” according to Captain Farrell.

The national seat belt use rate is currently at 90.1 percent, according to NHTSA’s 2016 data, up from 88.5 percent in 2015. The *Click It or Ticket* campaign is for the remaining 9.9 percent—some 32 million people who still don’t buckle up. Thousands of lives could be saved each year if every person was properly restrained on the road.

For more information on the *Click It or Ticket* mobilization, please visit www.nhtsa.gov/ciot.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 6.4.2018

Contact: Lieutenant Jillian Cabana

203.341.6009

jcabana@westportct.gov