



WESTPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Press Release

Westport Police Participate in Connecticut Department of Transportation *Click It or Ticket* Mobilization

State and local police strictly enforce seatbelt use throughout the holiday season

Westport, CT – The Connecticut Department of Transportation announced the start of the *Click It or Ticket* mobilization that aims to remind motorists and passengers to wear a seatbelt every time they enter a vehicle. The Connecticut Department of Transportation has teamed up with state and local law enforcement to deploy the mobilization to coincide with the Thanksgiving holiday. The campaign begins today, Monday, November 19 and will run through Monday, November 26. The Westport Police Department will be participating in this high-visibility campaign targeting seat belt violators.

Thanksgiving is one of the busiest travel times of the year and the increased number of vehicles on the road means an increased likelihood of crashes. Research from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) shows that during the 2016 Thanksgiving holiday weekend (6 p.m. on Wednesday, November 23, to 5:59 a.m. on Monday, November 28), there were 341 passenger vehicle occupants killed in traffic crashes across the nation and 49 percent of those killed were not buckled up.

Research also indicates that proper seat belt use reduces the risk of fatal injury to front seat passengers by 45 percent. **In the last decade, seatbelts have saved the lives of more than 100,000 people in the United States.**

Connecticut law requires all drivers and passengers in the front seat, regardless of the occupant's age, as well as all children under 16 in all positions to wear seatbelts. Fines start at a minimum of \$92 for first offense.

According to NHTSA, seat belts saved approximately 14,668 passenger vehicle occupants in 2016. If everyone had worn their seatbelts on every trip that year, an additional 2,456 people could be here for Thanksgiving this year.

The Westport Police Department wishes everyone a happy and safe holiday. Ensure your presence at next year's Thanksgiving gatherings by buckling up. Remember: *Click It or Ticket*.

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



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