



WESTPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Foti Koskinas
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Press Release

Westport Police Department to Participate in October Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement Campaign

(Westport, CT) – The Westport Police Department announces that it will be partnering with the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) from October 1 through October 15, 2020 for a high-visibility enforcement campaign focused on the state's distracted driving laws.

Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on your phone, eating and drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, fiddling with the stereo, entertainment or navigation system - anything that takes your attention away from the task of safe driving.

Texting is the most alarming distraction. Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for 5 seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

You cannot drive safely unless the task of driving has your full attention. Any non-driving activity you engage in is a potential distraction and increases your risk of crashing.

Distracted driving is dangerous, claiming 2,841 lives in the year 2018 alone. Among those killed: 1,730 drivers, 605 passengers, 400 pedestrians and 77 bicyclists. NHTSA leads the national effort to save lives by preventing this dangerous behavior.

Violating Connecticut's distracted-driving laws can be costly with fines starting at \$150.00 and increasing to potentially as much as \$1,000.00 depending on the operator's driving history and the location of the offense.

The Westport Police Department asks that you do your part to keep yourself and others safe and to please make driving your sole focus when you get behind the wheel of a vehicle.

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