



WESTPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Press Release



Westport Police Department to Participate in April's U Drive. U Text. U Pay. High Visibility Enforcement Campaign

(Westport, CT) – The Connecticut Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office is launching **U Drive. U Text. U Pay.**, a national high-visibility enforcement campaign for National Distracted Driving Awareness Month in April. In partnership with State and local law enforcement and the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the campaign will step up enforcement efforts to enforce distracted-driving laws between April 1 to April 30, 2021.

Distracted driving is an activity that diverts attention from driving. Not surprisingly, texting while driving is one of the most dangerous distractions. Sending or reading a text takes one's eyes off the road for 5 seconds and at 55 m.p.h., that is like driving the entire length of a football field with your eyes closed. Additionally, according to the NHTSA driving a vehicle while texting is six times more dangerous than intoxicated driving.

Operating a motor vehicle requires the driver's full attention and even a momentary distraction can lead to disastrous results. In Connecticut in 2019, more than 6,600 crashes were contributed to distracted driving and the NHTSA reported that between 2012 and 2019, 26,004 people died in crashes involving a distracted driver.

"Every trip on Connecticut's roadways—no matter how long or short a trip—should be a safe one," said Commissioner Joseph Giulietti of the Connecticut Department of Transportation. "We want drivers to focus on the most important task: hands on the wheel and eyes on the road."

March 31, 2021

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

The Connecticut Department of Transportation along with the Westport Police urges you to put your phone down when you get behind the wheel. Should you need to text prior to reaching your destination, please pull over to a safe location first.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 31, 2021
Lieutenant David Wolf