



For Immediate Release
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Click It or Ticket Campaign Starts May 18th

Harrisonburg, Va. – Once again, the Harrisonburg Police Department is reminding motorists to *Click It or Ticket* as part of the national seat belt enforcement campaign. Law enforcement agencies around the country will be stepping up enforcement May 18 to 31, just ahead of one of the busiest travel weekends of the year.

“Every day, unbuckled motorists are losing their lives in motor vehicle crashes,” said HPD Officer Terrell Johnson. “As we approach Memorial Day weekend and the summer vacation season, we want to make sure people are doing the one thing that can save them in a crash, and that’s buckling up,” added Johnson.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), nearly half of the 21,132 passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes in 2013 were unrestrained. Participating law enforcement agencies will be taking a no-excuses approach to seat belt law enforcement, writing citations day and night. HPD will be no exception – extra patrols and a checkpoint are planned as part of a two-week enforcement effort. And in case you didn’t know, Virginia law requires seat belt use for drivers and front seat passengers 18 years of age and older. Also, passengers within the vehicle younger than 18 need to be in a seat belt or safety seat system. If you’re not buckled up, you will get a ticket.

NHTSA offers the following facts regarding seat belt use nation-wide:

- Among young adults 18 to 34 years old killed in crashes, 61 percent were completely unrestrained—the highest percentage of all age groups.
- In 2012 seat belts saved an estimated 12,174 people from dying. From 2008 to 2012 seat belts saved nearly 63,000 lives.
- In 2013, there were 638 children 12 and younger killed in motor vehicle crashes. Of those fatalities, more than a third (38%) were unrestrained.

For more information on the *Click It or Ticket* mobilization, please visit www.nhtsa.gov/ciot. A note to local media; the annual CIOT display will be placed at the rescue squad on Reservoir St. on Friday morning, May 15.