

*Harrisonburg*  
VIRGINIA



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## ***August 31 - September 4 Proclaimed "Buckle Up for Safety and Lives" Week***

Harrisonburg, Va. – Law enforcement agencies in the area will be teaming up with Harrisonburg’s “Buckle Up for Safety and Lives” Committee in stepping up seat belt enforcement **and** rewarding drivers and passengers for good seat belt practices. The week-long campaign starts today and runs through September 4; just ahead of one of the busiest travel weekends of the year.

Committee Chairman Dennis Da Ponte explained that public attention is needed to improve the voluntary use of seat belts to save lives and reduce serious injuries. “Our committee is joining forces with local television and radio stations as well as public safety entities to make the public aware of seat belt use,” said Da Ponte. “In addition to public service announcements, we will give prizes to drivers and passengers in the Harrisonburg community who are seen wearing their seatbelts,” Da Ponte added.

A city proclamation was declared in support of these efforts highlighting the importance of seat belt use (please see attached).

The Harrisonburg Police Department will be committing extra patrols to all areas of the city this weekend, and seat belt enforcement will be a priority on the roads and highways. “Since school return, we have been very vigilant in promoting traffic safety, and the Labor Day holiday puts even more motorists on the roads,” stated HPD Traffic Officer Justin Joiner. “Through awareness campaigns such as “Click-It or Ticket,” Child Passenger Safety Week (September 14-19), and local efforts, we help promote seat belt use – and save lives,” says Joiner.

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.

*For more information on seat belt safety and mobilizations, please visit [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov).*