



# ***WPD NEWS***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **\*\* Media Advisory \*\***

### **WPD To Conduct STEP Grant Traffic Enforcement Operation**

The four Field Services bureaus of the Wichita Police Department will take part in a Special Traffic Enforcement Program operation February 11-17, it was announced today by Robert Lee, deputy chief of the Wichita Police Department's Field Services Division.

"Each year, far too many Kansans are killed or seriously injured in traffic crashes," said Lee. "Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death to children in the United States, with approximately 1,800 children ages 14 and under killed in traffic crashes each year. In addition, more than 280,000 are injured. Safety belts are the most effective means of saving lives and reducing serious injuries in traffic crashes.

"One of the most important things we as a police department can do to protect children and adults in motor vehicles is high-visibility enforcement of seat belt and child passenger safety laws."

Kansas law requires all occupants in the front seat of a passenger vehicle manufactured with safety belts to have that safety belt securely fastened around them at all times while the vehicle is in motion.

**The law also requires every driver who transports a child under the age of 14 in a passenger vehicle provide protection for that child by properly using an approved safety restraining system. Children 14 through 17 are now required to wear their seatbelt anywhere in the vehicle. Failure to do so can result in a traffic citation for the children who are not wearing their seatbelts.**

**The STEP operation for seatbelt and traffic enforcement is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation through the Kansas Department of Transportation.**

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