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Stepped Up Enforcement Planned Locally

(KNZA)--Beginning Monday, May 23 and continuing through Sunday, June 5, drivers can expect an increased police presence on Hiawatha city streets.

The Hiawatha Police Department will be joining almost 150 other law enforcement agencies--including the Kansas Highway Patrol-- in aggressively enforcing Kansas occupant restraint and other traffic laws as part of the 2016 Kansas Click It or Ticket campaign. The activity is supported by a grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation.

Police Chief John Defore says enforcement will occur around the clock. He says officers will be especially vigilant at night because the likelihood of seatbelt use at night is much lower than during the day and the percentage of unrestrained crash deaths soars much higher at night.

Defore says the aim of Click It or Ticket is to drastically reduce the number of preventable deaths and injuries that occur when unbelted drivers and passengers are involved in traffic crashes. According to KDOT, 57% of those killed in crashes on Kansas roads are not belted in, while 93% of crash occupants who suffer no injuries of any kind are belted in.

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