

# Press Release

**LAKE CITY**  
**POLICE**  
**DEPARTMENT**



*Chief of Police Gerald Butler*

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Department Receives First Place in DOT Traffic Challenge**

On Friday, July 28, 2023 the Lake City Police Department was awarded first place in the Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Law Enforcement Liaison Traffic Safety Challenge, Category 3 for 2022. The leading factor in this award is a reduction in crash and crash injuries in our community.

From 2021 to 2022, our enforcement efforts increased. For example, in the topic of speeding, traffic citations increased from 117 to 152. Other areas related to aggressive driving showed an increase in traffic citations as well. Importantly, the number of crashes experienced a declined from approximately 1500 to approximately 900.

These numbers provide a reflection of the locations where we increased our enforcement efforts. Subsequently, we were able to recede injuries and fatalities lowering our significant injuries from 50 down to 40 and fatalities from 4 to 2.

“No agency is able to control the type of traffic or drivers in their jurisdiction,” said Chief of Police Gerald Butler. “We are able to review our prior year’s reports and determine where we are experiencing high numbers of traffic crashes and aggressive drivers. With that information, we can target those areas, increase enforcement through visibility of patrol vehicles, conduct traffic stops, educate drivers, and give citations for traffic violations. Through these actions, we are able to help the drivers in our community make safer decisions.”



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