

# Press Release

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



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*Chief of Police Gerald Butler*

## For Immediate Release

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## LCPD: Click It or Ticket Approaching

The Lake City Police Department joined with law enforcement agencies from across the State of Florida and the Nation on Wednesday in an increased effort to increase seat belt use. Research by the Florida Department of Transportation and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has shown Memorial Day and the preceding weekend to have one of the highest concentrations of crash injuries and fatalities during the year. Often, those injuries are attributed to not wearing a seat belt.

LCPD will be actively mobilizing its Traffic Unit as well as officers working under the Strategic Traffic Enforcement Program. STEP Officers conduct increased targeted traffic enforcement on strategic areas of focus using overtime funds provided by FDOT. Traffic Unit Officers are full-time LCPD officers assigned to conduct community traffic calming efforts, data-driven enforcement, crash investigation, and traffic safety education.

“This is not about writing tickets,” said Chief Gerald Butler, “It is about saving lives. Sometimes the thought of a citation is the only thing that makes someone buckle up, however. If that is what it takes, I would rather someone pay a fine than put their lives or the lives of others needlessly at risk.”

As the Gateway to Florida, Lake City is often the first city visitors to the state will pass through on their way to popular tourist destinations. With its many hotels and restaurants, a large number of visitors exit the interstate and drive through town. During the Memorial Day weekend, this number is expected to increase significantly.

“It is important that we are highly visible during this time. What we do here can help impact the decisions of drivers as they continue elsewhere into the state,” said Butler.

The Click It or Ticket campaign began May 20<sup>th</sup> and will run through June 2<sup>nd</sup>. During this time LCPD will ramp up enforcement efforts including conducting stationary zero-tolerance operations throughout the city.



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