

Press Release

LAKE CITY
POLICE
DEPARTMENT



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Chief of Police Gerald Butler

For Immediate Release

Release Date: July 8, 2024

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LCPD: Operation Southern Slow-Down

Beginning July 15th, the Lake City Police Department will join the Florida Highway Patrol and Florida Department of Transportation, as well as other agencies across the States of Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, and South Carolina, in targeting increased efforts to catch speeders and aggressive drivers.



"Operation Southern Slowdown" is a multi-jurisdictional campaign to increase awareness of speeding laws across the Southeastern United States, coordinated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. All five states will conduct a week-long speed enforcement campaign which will focus on detecting and citing drivers for exceeding the speed limits on major corridors such as Interstates 10 and 75, US Highways 90, 41, and 441, and State Roads 100, 47, and 247 in Lake City.

"The Lake City Police Department will be working with our many law enforcement partners to provide safer highways," said Chief Gerald Butler. "Officers will be on patrol monitoring for dangerous drivers, especially those speeding and driving aggressively, in support of Operation Southern Slowdown."

Data from the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles shows more than 13,296 crashes in Florida in 2022 involving speeding. Speeding contributed to 10.5% of all crash fatalities in Florida the same year. According to FDOT data, as many as 54,000 vehicles drive through Lake City every day, not including interstate traffic. Since 2018, Lake City has had 5 fatalities and 25 serious injuries from speeding crashes.

"When motorists make the decision to engage in dangerous speeds on our roadways, they needlessly place themselves and other road users at risk of deadly outcomes," said FDOT Assistant Secretary and the Governor's Representative for Highway Safety, Will N. Watts, Jr., P.E.. "FDOT remains committed to achieving its target of zero fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways, and we are proud to join transportation and law enforcement partners across the state – and our neighboring southern states— in the Operation Southern Slow Down effort. Together, we can help get everyone home safely."

If you observe a speeder or aggressive driver, do not engage with the other driver. Call the Lake City Police Department at (386)752-4344 or if it is an emergency, dial 9-1-1.

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