**2018 CIOT Talking Points – Memorial Day**

Law enforcement agencies across the nation are joining together for the annualClick It or Ticket seat belt enforcement mobilization (May 21 – June 3) through Memorial Day weekend.

The campaign helps bolster seat belt enforcement with traffic safety checkpoints and saturation patrols.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), when worn correctly, seat belts are proven to reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat occupants by 45 percent and by 60 percent in pickup trucks, SUVs and minivans.

Also according to NHTSA, motorists are 75 percent less likely to be killed in a rollover crash if they are buckled up.

Because nighttime passenger vehicle occupants are among those least likely to buckle up and most likely to die in crashes when unrestrained, nighttime enforcement has become a priority of the Click It or Ticketmobilization*.*

**Kentucky seat belt information**

Kentucky’s seat belt usage rate increased with the passage of the primary law from 67.2 percent in 2006 to 86.8 percent in 2017. However, that is still below the national usage rate of 90.1 percent.

Even with the passage of our primary seat belt law, Kentucky undoubtedly experiences far too many deaths which could be avoided with the simple use of a seatbelt.

Of the 782 highway fatalities last year in Kentucky, 51 percent were not wearing a seat belt. Clearly this is an indication that people are not taking the law seriously, or they’re just not aware of the huge risk being taken by not buckling up.

Drivers are responsible for making sure everyone in the vehicle is buckled up. Drivers will be fined for each person that is not wearing a seat belt.

**Law enforcement quotes**

Click It or Ticket isn’t about the citations; it’s about increased awareness and saving lives.

As a police officer, I see people every day who aren’t restrained and who are severely injured or killed because of it. I would rather write a ticket than make a death notification.

Anyone can be involved in a crash at any time. So please, always buckle up, and always make sure your friends and family do the same.

**Pickup Trucks**

Kentucky has a particularly low seat belt usage rate for pickup truck drivers and passengers (78.8 percent).

Pickup truck occupants think that they don’t need to wear seat belts because they believe their large vehicles will protect them in a crash. However, the numbers from NHTSA tell the truth: 60 percent of pickup truck occupants who were killed in crashes were not buckled up. That’s compared to 42 percent of passenger car occupants who were unbuckled when they were killed in crashes.

Regardless of vehicle type, seat belt use is the single most effective way to help prevent injury or death a crash.