



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GLENCOE VILLAGE BOARD, PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT SUPPORT ILLINOIS DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS WEEK

(Glencoe, Illinois)—To bring attention to the dangers and consequences associated with driving distracted, the State of Illinois recently passed resolutions declaring April 24-April 28, 2017 as the inaugural Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week. Also recognizing this issue, the Board of Trustees adopted a proclamation in support of Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week, at the April 20, 2017 Village Board meeting.

While the issue of distracted driving is not new, crashes, injuries and fatalities from distracted driving are on the rise. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA):

- 3,477 people were killed and an estimated 391,000 injured in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers in 2015. That is a 9% increase in fatalities as compared to the previous year.
- 10% of fatal crashes, 15% of injury crashes and 14% of all police reported motor vehicle crashes in 2015 were reported as distraction affected crashes.
- Texting while driving has become an especially problematic trend among millennials. Young drivers, 16 to 24 years old, have been observed using handheld electronic devices while driving at higher rates than older drivers since 2007.

Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week is being coordinated by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police and AAA, with the support of the Illinois State Police, SafetyService.com, the National Safety Council, the Illinois Insurance Association and almost 300 law enforcement and fire agencies, including the Glencoe Public Safety Department.

The Public Safety Department plans to increase enforcement and will use social media and other efforts to promote awareness of the issues of distracted driving throughout the week. Tips for managing distractions while driving can be found on the Village website at www.villageofglencoe.org.

Contact Megan Hoffman at mhoffman@villageofglencoe.org / (847) 461-1104 for more information.

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