



## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **Lindenhurst Police Department to Participate in Distracted Driving Awareness Week Enforcement Efforts**

**Lindenhurst, Illinois** – Each day, 10 people are killed in distracted driving crashes - contributing to the 37,000 people killed in crashes on U.S. roadways during 2016, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). To help bring attention to the dangers associated with driving distracted, the Lindenhurst Police Department, announced today it will again participate in Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week (DDAW) and conduct an enforcement campaign of Illinois' distracted driving laws. This campaign will take place April 21-27, 2019.

"No distraction- whether texting or talking on the phone - is ever worth the loss of life on the roadway," said Commander John Mars. "These senseless deaths can easily be prevented if drivers simply choose to focus on the core task of driving when behind the wheel. We aim to do our part to help keep Lindenhurst's roads safer."

The third annual Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week is a coordinated effort between the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP), AAA, the Illinois State Police, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), the Illinois High School College Driver Education Association (IHSCDEA) and nearly 300 local law enforcement throughout Illinois to educate motorists about the dangers of driving while distracted and enforcing the laws on Illinois roadways. Last year's DDAW efforts resulted in over 23,000 warnings and citations for distracted driving offenses.

In addition to traffic enforcement, the Lindenhurst Police Department will participate in education activities in coordination with the IHSCDEA such as:

- Promote distracted driving messages through department's social media channels;
- Promote safe driving through educational and proactive traffic enforcement.

Contrary to what some drivers may think, hands-free, handheld and in-vehicle technologies are not distraction-free, even if a driver's eyes are on the road and their hands are on the wheel.

The latest AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety research found that:

- Drivers who text when behind the wheel more than double their odds of being involved in a crash;
- Drivers who use in-vehicle technologies, like voice-based and touch screen features, can be distracted for more than 40 seconds when completing tasks like programming navigation or sending a text message;
- Removing eyes from the road for just two seconds doubles the risk for a crash.

Violating Illinois' distracted driving laws can be costly. Know before you go. In Illinois:

- Law prohibits all drivers from texting and driving.
- Law prohibits all drivers from using a hand-held phone while driving.
- Law prohibits all teen drivers from using a cell phone while driving.

For more information on Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week visit [www.iddaw.org](http://www.iddaw.org). These partnerships have been formed to help further a traffic safety culture in Illinois and to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries resulting from distracted driving. Please help the ILACP, AAA, and the Lindenhurst Police Department to keep Illinois' roadways safe and Illinois strong.

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