



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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Lincoln Police Department is preparing to launch the state's annual Click it or Ticket seat belt enforcement campaign. Lincoln Police Department is stepping up enforcement of the state's occupant protection laws during the three week mobilization, May 14-June 3, 2007. This Special enforcement period is part of the state's annual effort to increase seat belt use through a combination of heavy enforcement, advertising and public awareness campaigns.

"Our Traffic Officers will be working overtime on the streets of Lincoln looking for and issuing citations to drivers and passengers who are not buckling up," said Police Chief Vizzusi. "The intent of the *Click it or Ticket* campaign is simple- to save lives and prevent injuries."

California currently has the fourth highest seat belt use rates in the nation, with the 2006 *Click it or Ticket* campaign resulting in an increase in the state's overall seat belt use rate from 92.5 percent in 2005 to 93.4 percent in 2006. California's 2006 teen seat belt use rate was 90.8 percent, well below the state rate of 93.4 percent, but up from 88.6 percent in 2005. Since the campaign first began in California in 2005, nearly a million more motor vehicle occupants are buckling up.

California's seat belt laws require that every passenger in the car, including the driver, wear a seat belt at all times. Bail amounts for seat belt citations range from \$80-\$91 for adults and when children under 6 are not properly secured in a vehicle, the parent or driver can receive on 'point count' on their driving record, with a fine of \$350 to \$401 on the first offense to \$795 to \$971 on a second offense!

All of these fines pale in comparison to the costs to society for each injury or death that could have been prevented by wearing a seat belt. Be safe on the streets of Lincoln and please wear your seat belts.

Funding for officer overtime to support California's *Click it or Ticket* campaign was provided by a grant from the Office of Traffic Safety through the National Traffic Safety Administration.