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**Thanksgiving Holiday Traffic Enforcement Campaign**  
*Enforcement Campaign 'Buckling Down'*  
*On Those Not Buckled Up - Day and Night*

(Franklin Park, Illinois) – In 2009, the percentage of Illinois motorists using safety belts has reached a record high of more than 92 percent. Even with that good news, 928 individuals still lost their lives on Illinois roadways. Of particular concern, are the numbers of fatalities between the hours of 12:00 AM and 3:00 AM, otherwise known as the three deadliest hours of the day. In 2009, 106 drivers or occupants were killed between these hours and according to IDOT figures just two of every ten of those vehicle occupants were buckled up at the time of the accident. In the continued effort toward safer roadways, the Division of Traffic Safety (DTS) has developed the Sustained Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) which will help Illinois maximize the effect of sustained, stepped-up, year long enforcement.

The Franklin Park Police Department will be joining hundreds of other law enforcement and highway safety agencies across Illinois in the STEP Grant program. It has received a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation for the sum of \$19,650.00. The traffic grant will allow the Franklin Park Police Department to hire back sworn police officers to provide traffic enforcement for child restraint, seatbelt, speeding, and alcohol related violations.

The traffic grant started on October 1, 2011 and will conclude on September 30, 2012. During this time period there will be different enforcement campaigns which are aimed to help educate drivers who violate Illinois traffic laws. The goal of the program is to reduce the amount of fatal crashes and impaired driving and to persuade everyone to use their seatbelt.

In advance of the heavily traveled Thanksgiving Holiday, starting November 17, 2011 through November 26, 2011 between the hours of 11:00 PM and 6:00 AM, stepped-up law enforcement activities will take place throughout the Village paying particular attention to night time seat belt use and impaired drivers. Officers will stop motorists long enough to determine that they are not intoxicated, that they possess a valid drivers license and are wearing their seatbelts.