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PRESS RELEASE

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Heightened enforcement of hands-free law in April as part of National Distracted Driving Awareness Month

Lake in the Hills, IL – April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. The Lake in the Hills Police Department is partnering with the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Illinois State Police, and more than 100 local law enforcement agencies throughout the state to remind motorists that if they drive with a phone in one hand, they can expect a ticket in the other.

With traffic fatalities on the rise in Illinois and across the country, the Lake in the Hills Police Department is committed to reducing easily preventable crashes caused by distractions such as texting. It is against the law in Illinois to use hand-held electronic communication devices while driving. Penalties include a fine of up to \$75 for a first offense.

Texting while driving distracts the driver visually, manually and cognitively, putting everyone on the road at risk. Sending or receiving a text takes a driver's eyes off the road for an average of 4.6 seconds, the equivalent of driving blind at 55 mph for the length of an entire football field.

Through April 30, motorists can expect to see increased patrols and enforcement zones across Illinois as part of the distracted driving enforcement effort. Officers will be continuing to stop distracted drivers, along with people speeding, not wearing their seat belts, and driving under the influence.

Not giving driving your full attention can have deadly consequences. Don't let one text or call wreck it all: "Drop It and Drive." The Illinois Drop It and Drive program is funded with federal highway safety dollars administered by IDOT.

Any criminal or traffic complaint(s) that have been filed against any individual(s) named herein are only an accusation. All defendant(s) are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. All inquiries regarding this press release are to be directed to the Communications Coordinator at 847-658-5676 unless otherwise noted.