

Chilmark Police Department Announcement of Traffic Safety Grant Initiative in 2008

2007-2008 Traffic Enforcement and Equipment Grant Program

The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) announced the availability of approximately \$3,620,000 in grant funding in federal fiscal year 2008 for municipal law enforcement agencies for high visibility enforcement mobilizations, and for the purchase of traffic enforcement-related equipment and materials. This funding will be part of a contract for a five-year period. Contracts awarded under this AGF will be for the period of approximately December 2007 through September 30, 2012.

The Chilmark Police Department was awarded a contract under this grant program in order to participate in the Grant Funded Traffic Safety Initiatives.

BACKGROUND

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, traffic enforcement conducted in conjunction with earned and paid media during a series of two to three week mobilization periods is highly effective in raising safety belt use across the nation.

In Massachusetts, the safety belt use rate was 51% in June 2002. After a concerted effort by 182 local police departments and the State Police over the course of three Click It or Ticket Mobilizations, as well as two You Drink & Drive. You Lose. Mobilizations, the state seat belt use rate increased to 62% in June 2003.

The percentage of alcohol-related fatalities in Massachusetts dropped from 49% in 2002 to 45% in 2003. The national rate dropped from 41% in 2002 to 40% in 2003. Despite these improvements both nationally and in Massachusetts, in 2003 there were 17,013 alcohol-related fatalities nationwide with 207 of these in Massachusetts.

Between 2002 and 2007, law enforcement agencies and the State Police were awarded grants to participate in Click It or Ticket, impaired driving and speed/aggressive driving high visibility mobilizations. The results have been positive, but your help is needed to reduce speeding and impaired driving, and to increase safety belt use.

Through statewide and local efforts, in June 2007, the statewide safety belt usage rate increased to 69%. The percentage of alcohol-related fatalities in Massachusetts dropped from 42% in 2005 to 40% in 2006. The Massachusetts rate for 2006 compared to 41% nationwide. There were 17,602 alcohol-related fatalities with 174 of these in Massachusetts in 2006.

HIGH VISIBILITY ENFORCEMENT SCHEDULE

To coordinate enforcement efforts for maximum statewide impact, grant-funded enforcement by departments will occur only during these mobilization periods.

First Mobilization	<i>Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.</i> December 12, 2007 through January 12, 2008
Second Mobilization	<i>Road Respect</i> March 26, 2008 through April 16, 2008
Third Mobilization	<i>Click It or Ticket</i> May 14, 2008 through June 4, 2008
Fourth Mobilization	<i>Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.</i> July 2, 2008 through July 23, 2008
Fifth Mobilization	<i>Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.</i> August 13, 2008 through September 3, 2008

PATROLS

- Grant funded enforcement must occur only during the five mobilization periods (see above schedule).
- Officers funded during this grant shall be dedicated in total to traffic law enforcement, except in the case of a criminal offense committed in the officer's presence.
- Departments may conduct overtime activity every day of the week, and any time of the day to target impaired driving, lack of safety belt use, speeding and other risk-taking motor vehicle behaviors.

EQUIPMENT FUNDING

- During the 2008 grant period, funds will be available to departments to purchase highway safety related equipment and materials upon completion of the 2008 Spring Road Respect Mobilization and the May Click It or Ticket Mobilization.
- The EOPSS will reimburse departments for approved purchases up to allowable amounts ranging from \$3,000 based on department grant. The department will be responsible to pay any balance.
- The Chilmark Police Department intends to use the equipment grant funds to purchase passive roadside speed measurement / traffic counting devices.

GOALS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The Chilmark Police Department will help achieve the following goals of this program:

- Increase effective enforcement of traffic-safety related laws to reduce fatal and serious-injury crashes.
- Increase statewide safety belt use from 69 percent in 2007 to 72 percent in 2008.
- Reduce the percentage of alcohol-related fatalities from 42 percent in 2005 to 40 percent in 2008.
- Reduce the percentage of speed-related fatalities from 33 in 2005 to 30 percent in 2008.

Nothing in this grant shall be interpreted as a requirement, formal or informal, that a law enforcement officer issue a specified or predetermined number of citations in pursuance of the department's obligation associated with the grant.

PUBLIC OUTREACH FOR EOPSS TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT GRANTS

- Advance public notification and follow-up of enforcement activity is required. The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Highway Safety Division (HSD) will provide sample news releases for department use by mail and on the EOPSS/HSD website. Newspaper clippings generated by department press releases and reports of local radio and TV coverage should be included with grant reports as well as posted on department/community websites and in annual reports.
- All public communications and/or news releases concerning any grant activity shall indicate that the project is funded by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION RELATED TO THIS TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAM PLEASE CONTACT:

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