



# NILES POLICE DEPARTMENT

## MEDIA RELEASE

Chief of Police  
Luis C. Tigera

Office of Media Relations  
Cmdr. Robert Tornabene  
7000 W. Touhy Avenue  
Niles, Illinois 60714  
Office - 847-588-6505  
Email – rgt@vniles.com

Released 4/18/2019

### The Niles Police Department to Participate in Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week April 21-27

**Niles, IL** -- 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 Niles 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.

"No distraction- whether texting or talking on the phone - is ever worth the loss of life on the roadway," said Cmdr. Robert Tornabene. "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 the Village of Niles roads safer."

The second 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, the Illinois High School High School and College Driver Education Association (IHSCDEA) and nearly 300 local law enforcements 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 18,000 warnings and citations for distracted driving offenses.

In addition to traffic enforcement the Niles Police Department will participate in education activities in coordination with the IHSCDEA:

- Our School Resource Officer will be conducting awareness messages at Notre Dame High School and our local Middle and Grammar Schools
- Work with teens to display distracted driving posts around community
- Promote distracted driving messages through the department's Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts.

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

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 Niles Police Department, to keep Illinois' roadways safe and Illinois strong.