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2018 Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: APRIL 20, 2018
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Springfield Park District Police Department to Participate in Second Annual Distracted Driving Week

Education, Enforcement Campaign to take place April 23-27

[Springfield, IL] – Each day, 10 people are killed in distracted driving crashes – 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 Springfield Park District 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 Chief Nargelenas. “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 Springfield’s 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 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.



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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

Violating Illinois's distracted driving laws can be costly. Know before you go. In Illinois:

- Park District Ordinance prohibits all drivers from texting and driving \$100
- Park District Ordinance prohibits all drivers from using a hand-held phone while driving \$100

For more information on Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week visits www.iddaw.org. These partnerships have been formed to help further a traffic safety culture in Illinois and to reduce a traffic fatalities and injuries resulting from distracted driving. Please help the ILACP, AAA, and Springfield Park District, to keep Illinois' roadways safe and Illinois strong.

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For information about this press release and other new at the District, go to www.springfieldparks.org