



**Village of Harwood Heights Police Department**  
7300 W. Wilson Ave. Harwood Heights, Illinois 60706

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**Press Release**

**'U Drive. U Text. U Pay.'**

**Law Enforcement Steps Up Efforts Targeting Distracted Drivers**

March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Harwood Heights, IL –The Harwood Heights Police Department today announced it is partnering with the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Illinois State Police and more than 200 local law enforcement agencies to step up enforcement efforts across the state in recognition of Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Throughout April, motorists can expect increased patrols looking for texting and driving as well as other traffic violations.

“Distracted driving is one of the leading causes of motor vehicle crashes on our roads today,” said Sergeant Nick Ramirez. “During Distracted Driving Awareness Month, law enforcement will boost enforcement efforts, stopping anyone we see texting and driving. We do this to save lives.”

Between 2012 and 2021, approximately 32,000 lives were lost in crashes involving distracted drivers. Everyone has the potential for distracted driving crashes, but those between the ages of 16 and 24 are especially at risk. If you need to text, pull over to a safe location, or if you have a passenger, consider appointing a “designated texter.” Whatever the solution, don’t text and drive.

In Illinois, using your phone in anything other than hands-free mode is not only dangerous, but also illegal. Pay attention or pay the price.

The Illinois distracted driving campaign is funded with federal traffic safety funds administered by IDOT. Our efforts are to keep the roadway safe.

For more information contact:

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