



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

Media Release

From: Corporal Wendy McGinnis
Public Information Officer, 352-754-6830

Re: Hernando County Sheriff's Office Participates in the National 2011 Click It or Ticket Campaign

Date: November 10, 2011

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office will join local and national law enforcement officers and highway safety advocates all across the country for the 2011 national *Click It or Ticket* seat belt enforcement mobilization campaign, November 14 - November 27, 2011.

During the mobilization, officers will be cracking down on motorists who fail to wear their seat belts – both day and night.

Because nighttime passenger vehicle occupants are among those least likely to buckle up and most likely to die in crashes when unrestrained, nighttime enforcement will be equally enforced for the *Click It or Ticket* mobilization. Of those who died in nighttime crashes in 2009, nearly two-thirds (62 percent) were not wearing seat belts at the time of their fatal crashes.

In 2009, 11,593 passenger vehicle occupants died in motor vehicle crashes nationwide between the nighttime hours of 6 p.m. and 5:59 a.m., according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

“Many traffic deaths can be prevented if more motorists simply start wearing their seat belts. That’s why Sheriff Al Nienhuis strongly supports the enhanced enforcement of seat belt laws during the national *Click It or Ticket* campaign,” said Corporal Wendy McGinnis. “We will be out in force to remind drivers and occupants to always wear their seat belts – both day and night.”

High-visibility enforcement such as the *Click It or Ticket* mobilization is credited with increasing the national belt usage rate from 58 percent in 1994 to an observed usage rate of 85 percent in 2010. Seat belt use saves thousands of lives each year across America. In 2009 alone, it was reported that seat belts saved 12,713 lives nationwide.

“Law enforcement will be cracking down on *Click It or Ticket* violators around the clock” said Sheriff Al Nienhuis. “Motorists should buckle up because if law enforcement finds you on the road unbuckled, anytime or anywhere, you can expect to get a ticket. Remember this November 14 – November 27, 2011: It’s *Click It or Ticket*. Buckle up and, if you are the driver, require your passengers to do the same. We truly care about your safety. Using seat belts will save the cost of a ticket and may even save a life.”