



Ft. Pierce Police Department

News Release

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R. Sean Baldwin

Chief of Police

920 S. U.S. #1

Ft. Pierce, FL 34950

Police step up enforcement of traffic laws in school zones

FORT PIERCE – As area children count down the days until the first day of school, local law enforcement officers have devised a plan to heighten enforcement to ensure school crossing zones are safer for their passage.

Beginning August 18, officers will be stationed at various school crossing zones within the city during the mornings and afternoons to monitor the speeds of vehicles traveling through the zones. The year-long operation will target the following zones:

- Between Mississippi and Virginia avenues on 13th Street
- Between 10th and 13th streets on Delaware Avenue
- Between 11th and 13th streets on Virginia Avenue
- Between Avenue M and Avenue Q on North 25th Street
- Between Avenue H and Avenue J on North 29th Street

Sergeant Robert Curry, Traffic Unit Supervisor said, if motorists fail to slow down in school crossing zones, they will face fines ranging from \$113.50 for driving 1 to 5 miles over the speeded limit to \$560 and could be mandated to appear in court for driving 30 or more miles over the speed limit.

In addition, police will be keeping a watchful eye on local bus stops to ensure that drivers are stopping when school buses are picking up and unloading students. If a driver fails to stop for a school bus that has its warning lights and stop signs activated the fine is \$181.00 and the driver could be mandated to appear in court. Also, traffic traveling in both directions on a roadway that does not have a raised median, like on sections of U.S. #1, must stop for school buses that have their warning lights and stop signs activated, Curry said.

“Motorists also need to be sure that they and their passengers are wearing seatbelts,” said Curry. “Officers often see cars with kids jumping round in them. Those vehicles can and will be stopped.”

According to state seat belt safety requirements, the officer does not need to witness a violation before a motorist can be stopped for a child not wearing a seat belt.

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