

Press Release

LAKE CITY
POLICE
DEPARTMENT



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Gerald Butler, Chief of Police

For Immediate Release

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Sgt. Mike Lee, Public Information Officer

Ph. 386.758.5489 Cell 386.984.6326

LCPD: Memorial Day Enforcement Wave, Checkpoint Results in Arrests

On Friday, May 24, 2024, the Lake City Police Department in conjunction with the Florida Highway Patrol, Florida Department of Transportation, and Florida Department of Corrections Office of Probation and Parole conducted a sobriety checkpoint on US Highway 90 in Lake City as part of the national "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" Memorial Day Weekend campaign. This checkpoint resulted in multiple criminal charges, including one DUI arrest.

The checkpoint was conducted on US Highway 90 between NW Gwen Lake Ave and NW Ridgewood Ave. Westbound traffic diverted from the highway into a screening area where law enforcement officers from LCPD and FHP looked for signs of impairment and other obvious violations. The checkpoint ran for approximately 6 hours, beginning just after 7:00pm and ending at approximately 1:00am.

A total of 1554 vehicles passed through the checkpoint in total. One DUI Arrest was made. Additionally, an absconded fugitive was discovered during a violation screening and taken into custody. Additional criminal charges included 6 Driving on a Suspended License, 4 Driving Without a License, and 2 Attaching Tag Not Assigned. Citations issued included 26 seat belt violations, 2 open containers. A total of 54 citations and 99 warnings were also provided, and over 1250 educational materials were distributed.

"Impaired driving is always a serious crime. The time around Memorial Day, a lot of people are on the road and the chances of being involved in a crash is higher," said Lake City Police Chief Gerald Butler. "Driving impaired only raises the chances of being hurt, or hurting someone else."

The goal of these checkpoints is to increase safety for all road users in the Lake City and surrounding area. The Lake City Police Department puts a great deal of effort into ensuring they are done legally and that traffic safety is balanced with protecting the rights of those who enter the checkpoint. Among other legal obligations, in compliance with Florida Supreme Court rulings, the checkpoints are announced in advance.

"Our goal is to educate the public and gain compliance, but that does not always work and we use other means, such as checkpoints, to keep the citizens of Lake City safe from drunk drivers," said Chief Butler. For more information visit www.nhtsa.gov/DriveSober



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Arrested: Levi Hicks
Race/Sex: Black/Male
Age: 57
Address: Valdosta, GA
Charges: Driving Under the Influence
Driving While License Suspended or Revoked



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