

# Press Release

**LAKE CITY**  
**POLICE**  
**DEPARTMENT**



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*Chief of Police Gerald Butler*

## For Immediate Release

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## LCPD: Click It or Ticket Complete, Efforts Ongoing

For the past two weeks, Police Officers across the United States and Florida have been increasing their efforts to promote safety through seat belt use as part of the Click It or Ticket campaign. The Lake City Police Department aggressively participated in this wave to help remind citizens to buckle up while driving.

During this wave, which ended June 9<sup>th</sup>, LCPD initiated contact with drivers and passengers who were not wearing their seat belts. These contacts resulted in 3 citations for Child Restraint, 4 citations Occupant (under 18) Unbelted, 22 citations for Driver (18+) Unbelted, 6 citations for Front Seat Passenger (18+) Unbelted. These are in addition to 26 seat belt related citations issued during a DUI Checkpoint held on June 24<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to these citations, 62 warnings and 301 educational materials were distributed.

“Lake City faces more traffic strain than the surrounding parts of North Florida. This means a higher crash rate and more dangerous roads,” stated LCPD Chief Gerald Butler. “As the Gateway to Florida, we also have to set the tone for motorists entering the state, so they know seat belt enforcement is a priority.”

Butler stressed that seat belt enforcement remains a priority all year, even outside of enforcement waves, and motorists without a seat belt may face a citation. In Columbia County, a citation for an unbelted adult is \$114 and unbelted juveniles cost \$164 and come with 3 license points.

Lake City ranks as the highest per-capita rate of injuries related to lack of seat belt use in Florida, according to the 2023 Highway Safety Matrix provided by the Florida Department of Transportation.

According to Butler, “LCPD’s Strategic Traffic Enforcement Program will continue to operate using funds provided by the FDOT to enforce Occupant Protection laws, even through Click It or Ticket is over. Our goal is to reduce injuries from crashes involving unbelted people.”



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