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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 10, 2017 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Deputy Chief Michael Szos 847-459-2560 pdpio@vbg.org

## **NEWS RELEASE**

## **Buffalo Grove Participates in Click It or Ticket Campaign**

Buffalo Grove, IL – The Buffalo Grove Police will join the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), the Illinois State Police and hundreds of local law enforcement agencies across the state for the *2017 Click It or Ticket* campaign that runs from May 15-30, 2017. Officers will be out in force day and night during this time frame, cracking down on seat belt law violations and impaired drivers. Motorists caught driving unbuckled will be ticketed, and those caught driving impaired by drugs or alcohol will be arrested.

Illinois seat belt law requires all front and back seat occupants to wear a seat belt. During statewide observational surveys conducted by IDOT in 2015, the overall usage rate for rear seat occupants was 85-percent, as opposed to 95-percent for drivers and front seat passengers. In Illinois, children are required to be in a car seat or booster seat until at least age 8, and all children younger than 13 should ride in the back seat.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), approximately one-third of all traffic crash fatalities involve drunken drivers (those with a BAC above .08). Additionally, on average, 10,000 people are killed in highly preventable crashes that involve drunken drivers each year (years 2010-2014).

Wearing a seat belt is the best defense against an impaired driver. It is also important to remember that officers enforce seat belt laws year-round, both day and night. Residents are reminded to wear seat belts and never drive impaired – because lives can be saved.

"Unbuckled motorists continue to lose their lives on Illinois roadways," said Traffic Sergeant Michelle Kondrat. "We want motorists and passengers to buckle up this Memorial Day weekend and throughout the summer – it could mean the difference between life and death."