



**BUFFALO GROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
STEVEN R. CASSTEVENS, CHIEF OF POLICE  
46 Raupp Boulevard, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089  
Non-Emergency: 847.459.2560



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**  
Deputy Chief Michael Szos  
847-459-2560  
pdpio@vbg.org

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Buffalo Grove Police Conduct Successful Distracted Driving Enforcement Effort**

**Buffalo Grove, IL.** - In an effort to reduce distracted driving and keep community roads safer, the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) teamed up with law enforcement agencies across the country for the national *U Drive. U Text. U Pay.* high-visibility enforcement effort. From April 16 through April 30, 2018, police officers were on high alert looking for motorists who were disobeying Illinois distracted-driving laws. During this time, Buffalo Grove law enforcement issued 38 citations to violators of the law.

"Texting and driving is an increasing risk on our roads, and police officers used this enforcement effort to get the message out about the dangers of this type of behavior," said Sergeant Michelle Kondrat. "We all know texting while driving is dangerous, but too many drivers are doing it anyway. Hopefully now, drivers understand the gravity of the problem, and understand if you drive and text, you'll pay."

According to NHTSA, 3,450 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers in 2016. In fact, nearly one-tenth of all fatal crashes that year were reported as distraction-affected. Texting while driving has become an especially problematic trend among millennials. According to NHTSA, drivers ages 16 to 24 have been observed using handheld electronic devices while driving at higher rates than older drivers since 2007.

"Distracted driving kills too many people for us to ignore the facts and pretend it's okay. It is never acceptable to text and drive," said Sergeant Kondrat.

Although the high-visibility enforcement effort is over, law enforcement officers will continue watching for distracted drivers to ensure all motorists keep their eyes on the road, and their hands on the wheel. Remember: U Drive. U Text. U Pay.

This campaign was made possible by federal highway safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

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