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Lowell Police Department Receives Child Passenger Safety Equipment Grant

Funds Will Make Child Safety Seats Available to Area Residents in Need

(Lowell, MA) – The Lowell Police Department (LPD) has received a \$2,000 grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security’s Highway Safety Division (EOPSS-HSD) to expand its child passenger safety efforts. Lowell is one of 55 communities in the Commonwealth to be awarded Child Passenger Safety Equipment grants totaling \$132,000, which were given to non-profits and municipal departments to reduce motor vehicle fatalities and injuries involving children.

The grants will be used primarily to purchase child safety seats for free distribution to parents and caregivers in need. Nationwide, traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for children ages three to 14. Properly installed child safety seats have been proven to reduce the risk of death and injury in crashes. It is estimated that 75% of child passenger safety equipment is installed incorrectly.

“Proper use and installation of child safety seats is crucial for keeping young children safe when traveling by motor vehicle. The LPD recognizes that these seats can be expensive and believes that all families should have access to proper safety seats regardless of their financial status. This grant will allow the LPD to provide assistance to families who have difficulty affording child safety and booster seats,” said Superintendent William Taylor. “We also offer Car Seat Checkpoint events to help all parents and caregivers ensure their child safety seats are installed properly. The next Car Seat Checkpoint will take place in the spring of 2015.”

For upcoming child seat checkup events or to find a fitting station near you, please visit www.mass.gov/childsafetyseats.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recently updated its motor vehicle safety recommendations, advising that children are best protected by using rear facing safety seats up to the specific age and weight limits of the safety seat. Massachusetts state law also requires the use of booster seats until a child is 57 inches tall or eight years of age.

For more information on how to obtain or properly install child passenger restraints call the LPD at 978-937-3200 or the Massachusetts Child Passenger Safety Hotline at 1-877-392-5956 or go to www.mass.gov/childsafetyseats.

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