



LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT

KEVIN A. MOONEY
CHIEF OF POLICE

P.O. BOX 19 - 169 LINCOLN ROAD - LINCOLN, MA 01773
BUSINESS: (781) 259-8113 FAX: (781) 259-9289

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Contact: Off. Robert Gallo

Lincoln Police Safety Belt Pledge Drive

With only 65% of drivers and front seat passengers statewide using safety belts in 2005, the Lincoln Police Department is working to increase their use. During the week of June 5th a survey was conducted on Lincoln Rd. The survey showed a usage rate of 81%. A Safety Belt Pledge Drive, was conducted on June 21, 2006, at the Lincoln Transfer Station. During this event thirty-four people pledged to wear their safety belts for two weeks. Their names were entered into a drawing to win a \$50 gift certificate donated by Stonegate Gardens. A Beaver Pond Rd. resident won. These educational efforts are part of the Massachusetts' Governor's Highway Safety Bureau's Click It or Ticket Campaign. The GHSB is funding 217 police departments for participation in safety belt enforcement activities. Using safety belts consistently and correctly reduces the chance of serious injury or death by 50-70%. Additionally, Massachusetts' communities with higher safety belt use rates have lower rates of crash-related injuries.

According to Chief Kevin A. Mooney, "Wearing a safety belt can be habit forming. Once we get in the habit, we continue to wear them. By increasing the number of people wearing safety belts, we will save lives and prevent injuries."

The Massachusetts safety belt law requires all occupants to be properly restrained when riding in a private passenger vehicle. Anyone not belted risks a \$25.00 fine. In addition, drivers can be fined for any passenger under 16 who is not belted