



## 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

### **Lincoln Receives Child Passenger Safety Grant**

The Lincoln Police Department has received a \$1,350.00 grant from the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau (GHSB) to expand its child passenger safety efforts. The GHSB, a program of the Executive Office of Public Safety, awarded 82 of these grants totaling \$480,000 to Massachusetts organizations working to reduce motor vehicle fatalities and injuries involving children.

"With this GHSB grant, the Lincoln Police can better serve parents and caregivers who want to protect their children from death or injury by properly securing them in a safety belt, booster seat, or child safety seat", said Chief Mooney. "We can also keep reminding adults that they must set a good example for kids by obeying the Massachusetts safety belt law and always buckling up themselves."

Nationwide traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for children 3 to 14. There were 13 fatalities and 128 incapacitating injuries involving children 12 and under in Massachusetts in 2004.

"The Romney-Healey Administration is pleased to provide this grant funding to the Lincoln Police to support its child passenger safety initiatives," said Robert C. Haas, Secretary of Public Safety. "We need to get the word out that properly installed child safety seats reduce the risk of death in a crash by 71% for infants and 54% for toddlers. Parents and caregivers also need to know that children 40-80 pounds and under 4'9" are safest in a booster seat/safety belt combination."

The Massachusetts Child Passenger Safety Law requires all children under five years old AND weighing 40 pounds or less to ride in a federally-approved child safety seat. Children under five weighing more than 40 pounds should ride in a booster seat. Children five and older weighing more than 40 pounds usually require the use of a booster seat in order to wear a properly adjusted adult lap and shoulder safety belt. This is appropriate until the child reaches 80 pounds and 4'9". Children 12 and under are safest when properly restrained in the back seat, ideally away from airbags.

The Massachusetts Child Passenger Safety Law is a primary enforcement law. With a few minor exceptions, a police officer may stop a motor vehicle if a

child is riding improperly restrained. A driver will be fined \$25.00 for each improperly restrained child.

The Lincoln Police want to remind the public that the Massachusetts Safety Belt requires everyone to buckle up. Adults need to set a good example for children, because 70% of youngsters whose parents don't use safety belts will not buckle up when they grow up. A 2005 GHSB survey found only a 65% safety belt use rate among front seat occupants of all ages in Massachusetts – far lower than the national use rate of 82%. This low use rate is a serious public safety and health issue given that safety belts reduce one's risk of death or serious injury in a crash by up to 50%.

For more information on child passenger safety – including a list of child passenger safety technicians across Massachusetts – please go to [www.mass.gov/ghsb](http://www.mass.gov/ghsb), or contact Officer Robert Gallo of the Lincoln Police Department, 781-259-8113.