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CITY OF KEARNEY **PRESS RELEASE** ***For Immediate Release***

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School Bus Safety

The Nebraska Office of Highway Safety is sponsoring a grant for up to \$5,000 in overtime for the Kearney Police Department to conduct a special traffic enforcement regarding the passing of school buses. Over the last year the Kearney Police Department has received several complaints from citizens regarding motorists passing school buses that are stopped with the buses stop arm extended. This practice is dangerous and illegal.

This selective enforcement will be conducted on school days from March 9 thru March 20, 2015. Officers will be out in force, cracking down on drivers who violate Nebraska State Law 60-6,175 regarding school bus; safety requirements; use of stop signal arm; use of warning signal lights. The ultimate goal of this project is to educate motorists and ensure the safety of the children in this community. Key points motorists need to know about laws regarding the passing of school buses include:

- Any motorist, upon meeting or overtaking, from front or rear, a stopped school bus that has the stop signal arm extended and flashing red lights, must come to a stop until the stop signal sign is retracted.
- Any motorist, upon meeting or overtaking, from the front or rear, a school bus that has yellow warning signal lights flashing, must slow down to 25mph (20mph if the bus is in a school zone), if passing.
- Exceptions are if the school bus is stopped on a divided highway. A divided highway is defined as a road with a median strip between the traffic in opposite directions and typically two or more lanes in each direction. Private roads and parking lots are also exempt from the law, to include parking lots at the schools.
- A violation of this law is a Class IV Misdemeanor punishable by a \$500 fine.

Additional information and examples will be posted on the Kearney Police Department Facebook site.

Check out our web site at www.cityofkearney.org.

We are sending this News Release as a service to the news media and citizens of Kearney.

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