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

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Kearney Police Department Back to School Enforcement Operation

The Kearney Police Department (KPD) continues to strengthen its partnership with the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) – Office of Highway Safety by participating in State and National traffic enforcement campaigns. These initiatives aim to improve roadway safety and reduce injuries and fatalities for motorists.

In October 2024 KPD was awarded \$35,000 in grant funding from NDOT to support selective enforcement and educational campaigns focusing on occupant protection, impaired driving, speeding, distracted driving, and overall traffic safety. This funding, available from October 2024 through September 2025, has been utilized for multiple enforcement operations, including national traffic safety campaigns and targeted initiatives based on local statistics and community reports.

As part of this initiative from August 18 to August 22, S.T.E.P. (Special Traffic Enforcement Program), will address traffic violations in and around school zones such as failure to stop for a school bus with flashing red lights, illegal parking or stopping in no-parking zones or fire lanes, failure to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, distracted driving (e.g., cellphone use) in school zones, U-turns or unsafe turning maneuvers near school property, speeding, etc. The goal is to reduce crashes in school zones related to traffic violations.

The department's Traffic Enforcement Unit will dedicate additional patrol hours to this initiative using S.T.E.P. grant funding. These efforts are critical to achieving the broader goal of reducing crashes in Kearney with the ultimate goal of safer school zones within our community.

“School zone safety is a top priority for our department. With children walking, biking, and being dropped off each day, its critical that drivers slow down, stay alert, and follow the law. A few extra seconds of caution can prevent a lifetime of regret.” – Cpt. Kevin Thompson

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.