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

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### **Kearney Police Awarded “Special Traffic Enforcement Program” (STEP) Grant for Second Consecutive Year**

The Kearney Police Department (KPD) has been awarded funding through the Special Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) for the second consecutive year. This grant, provided by the Nebraska Department of Transportation – Office of Highway Safety, will support enhanced traffic enforcement and education initiatives aimed at reducing roadway injuries and fatalities.

STEP funding will be authorized from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, and will be used to support enforcement operations, national safety campaigns, and targeted initiatives based on crash data, community reports, and identified problem areas.

The grant places special emphasis on occupant protection, impaired driving, speeding, distracted driving, and general traffic safety. KPD will also continue staffing its part-time Selective Traffic Unit, comprised of officers who work grant-funded enforcement assignments in addition to their regular duties, with a sole focus on traffic safety and community concerns.

The first STEP enforcement operation under the new grant cycle will take place Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup> through Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025. This initiative will focus on “school zones” and bus “stop-arm” safety, responding to concerns identified by community members, schools, and officers on patrol.

*“Ensuring the safety of our children is a top priority for the Kearney Police Department. Drivers must always exercise caution in school zones and stop for school buses that are loading or unloading students. Following the rules of the road around buses not only keeps our children safe but also prevents serious injuries and fatalities on our streets.”*  
– Captain Kevin Thompson

Kearney Police Department’s participation in this program is made possible through funding from the Nebraska Department of Transportation – Office of Highway Safety.

Check out our web site at [www.cityofkearney.org](http://www.cityofkearney.org).

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