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

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Kearney Police STEP Grant Operation Yields Significant Traffic Safety Results

The Kearney Police Department (KPD) successfully completed its first Special Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) operation under the 2025–2026 grant cycle, focusing on school zones and bus “stop-arm” safety.

During the operation, KPD officers recorded **144 contacts** with drivers and issued **33 uniformed citations**, working in and around Kearney Public Schools’ zones and onboard school buses. The operation included the participation of **five additional officers**, contributing a total of **29.75 hours** of targeted enforcement.

This STEP operation, funded by the Nebraska Department of Transportation – Office of Highway Safety, emphasizes occupant protection, impaired driving, speeding, distracted driving, and general traffic safety. Special attention was given to ensuring the safety of children during school hours, responding to concerns from the community, 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,” said **Captain Kevin Thompson, Kearney Police Department.** “Following the rules of the road around buses not only keeps our children safe but also prevents serious injuries and fatalities on our streets.”*

KPD’s participation in the STEP program, now in its second consecutive year, allows the department to expand enforcement and education initiatives aimed at reducing roadway injuries and fatalities in the Kearney community.

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.