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Media Release

Results of Recent "Joining Forces" Traffic Safety Initiative in the Reno-Sparks Area

During a two-week time frame earlier this month, several area law enforcement agencies teamed up and participated in a traffic safety initiative focused on motor vehicle and pedestrian violations in the greater Reno-Sparks area. The agencies represented included the Reno and Sparks police departments, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, and the Nevada Highway Patrol. Officers, deputies and troopers were deployed to a number of intersections throughout the region targeting not only drivers for traffic-related violations, but also were looking for pedestrians who were either jay walking or crossing a roadway unsafely.

Troopers from the Nevada Highway Patrol conducted a total of 528 enforcement stops which yielded 641 citations. Some of the enforcement activity included 154 citations for speeding, 87 tickets for not having proof of insurance, 84 for talking, texting or reading non-voice communication on a cell phone while driving, and 40 more were issued to motorists for not wearing a seat belt. The remaining violations included suspended driver's licenses, vehicle registration violations, running red lights, failing to yield to pedestrians, and other moving, non-moving, or mechanical violations.

Additionally, 65 verbal warnings were handed out and only 6 pedestrians were cited during the campaign. 19 of the motorists stopped and cited were young drivers between the ages of 16 and 20, while the others were over the age of 21.

This initiative was funded by the "Joining Forces" grant secured by the Nevada Office of Traffic Safety and sponsored by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Several additional waves of similar enforcement are being planned for April in our area.

Motorists can easily avoid a citation or verbal warning by obeying all the rules of the road as well ashaving current vehicle registration, insurance and a valid driver's license.

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