



GIG HARBOR POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Press Release

February 6, 2015

For Immediate Dissemination

Local Agencies Emphasize Child Passenger Safety

(Gig Harbor, WA) Law enforcement agencies, fire departments and courts in the Gig Harbor area have teamed up to draw attention to child passenger safety laws.

February will be a month devoted to the education of those who transport children in motor vehicles to ensure that they are being carried in the safest way possible and in compliance with state law.

In the month of March, law enforcement officers will be specifically looking for violations of child passenger safety laws and taking enforcement action. In lieu of paying a fine, drivers found in violation will be given the option of attending a one hour education class that will remind them about the proper way to transport children in a vehicle.

Under current Washington State law, children less than eight years old must be restrained in child restraint systems, unless the child is four feet nine inches or taller.

“Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death in children aged 1 – 17,” said Gig Harbor Police Officer Chet Dennis who is coordinating this project for the various agencies, “and we don’t want to see any tragedies when we know that the risk can be greatly reduced through proper use of child restraints.”

More information about child passenger safety is available at <http://wtsc.wa.gov/>.

The Gig Harbor Police Department is partnering with the Pierce County Sheriff’s Department, Pierce County Fire District 5, Gig Harbor Municipal Court and Pierce County District Court to conduct this education and enforcement effort.

For more information, contact GHPD Chief Busey at (253) 853-2422 or buseyk@cityofgigharbor.net (end)