



# CITY OF TUCSON



Ready to Protect  
Proud to Serve

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## NEWS RELEASE

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**Date:** 12/08/2011  
**TDD:** 791-2639

### OCCUPANT PROTECTION TRAFFIC GRANT

The Tucson Police Department is proud to announce the acceptance of the \$20,000.00 Occupant Protection Grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. The grant funding will be used to heighten the awareness of the public to the hazards of non-seatbelt use and child restraint violations, which will be accomplished through public education using classroom and hands on training at public car seat check events and a comprehensive enforcement effort. Funding from this grant will be in effect through the end of September 2012.

During the week of December 25 through December 31, Traffic Enforcement Officers will deploy throughout the city stopping vehicles for moving violations and equipment violations, while concentrating their efforts on seat belt and car seat usage. Violations of the seat belt laws are secondary violations in the State of Arizona, meaning that officers cannot stop vehicles based solely on this violation. However, if a driver is stopped for another violation, a driver that is not wearing their seatbelt will also be issued a citation for that violation. Additionally, Arizona's child restraint law requires that every child under the age of five must be properly secured in a federally approved child safety seat, appropriate to the child's height and weight. Officers observing violations of this law can stop a vehicle based solely on this violation.

Any questions regarding the grant or deployment may be directed to Lieutenant Elise Souter or Sergeant Mary Kay Slyter in the Traffic Division at 791-4440.

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For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.

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