



Looking Beyond The Safety Belt

A Connecticut Law Enforcement Recognition Program

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association announces the “Looking Beyond The Safety Belt” awards program. This program was established to recognize law enforcement officers whose observations during a traffic stop based on a safety belt violation, result in the discovery of evidence of a crime and/or apprehension of criminals. Case histories submitted by law enforcement agencies help substantiate the importance of traffic stops as a tool in uncovering other crimes. All too often we think of traffic stops as being “routine” while clearly they are not. Each and every day, law enforcement officers apprehend fugitives and recover evidence of other crimes, based on traffic stops for “routine” violations. The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association supports the enforcement of the state’s primary safety belt law and encourages officers to take enforcement action in their jurisdictions.

ENTRY RULES

1. All entries submitted for the Looking Beyond The Safety Belt award program must be based on traffic stops made by law enforcement officers where the probable cause for the stop was based on a violation of the Connecticut safety belt law or local ordinance.
2. Each entry must include a cover letter on original department letterhead from the agency head or his/her designee.
3. Each entry must be based on a traffic stop made during the previous calendar year.
4. All entries are due in DOT Headquarters on May 1st of each year for the previous year to be considered for the program.
5. All entries and supporting data become the property of the Connecticut Department of Transportation and will not be returned.
6. A panel of judges selected by the CPCA Traffic Committee will review all entries and will determine the top winner each year, within the categories of 1) Municipal Police, 2) State Police, 3) University and 4) Tribal Police . The decisions of the judging team are final.
7. Winners will be notified by mail and will be recognized at the Annual Traffic Safety Challenge Awards ceremony .
8. The CPCA and CTDOT reserve the right to publish the names and photographs of the winners and their agencies as part of the statewide campaign.

For more information, contact the CPCA Traffic Committee Chairperson:

Chief John Gavallas, Watertown Police – 203- 945-5212

or

CT. Traffic Safety Challenge Program Manager, Edmund M. Hedge, – 860-594-2386

See following page for nomination form



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ENTRY FORM

Date of Traffic Stop: _____ (Must have occurred in previous year)

Officer's Name: _____ Star/Badge # _____

Law Enforcement Agency _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Contact Phone # For Person Completing Nomination _____

Name of Person Completing This Form: _____

For entry to be considered, each area below must be completed with attachments, and submitted with a cover letter from the head of the agency or his/her designee.

Briefly describe the events leading up to the traffic stop (time of day, location, was officer by him/herself, other violations noted prior to the stop, other than safety belt?):

Briefly describe the events leading up to the discovery of other crimes, fugitives, evidence recovered, searches conducted, etc.:

What was the result of the stop (arrests made, charges filed, crimes cleared, etc.)?

Please attach any arrest or case reports, newspaper clippings or other supporting materials. Use additional paper if needed, to expand on the above information.

Please return applications **BY May 1st to: Connecticut Highway Safety Office, ATTN: Edmund M. Hedge, CT. DOT PO Box 317546, 2800 Berlin TPK, Newington, CT 06131**

For information: Chief John Gavallas, Watertown Police, 860-348-7277 or

Connecticut Traffic Safety Challenge Program Manager Ed Hedge, 860-594-2386