

Press Release- Elwood Police

2017-2018 Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge



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Elwood Police Receive Top State Award for Traffic Safety

Elwood, Illinois – The Elwood Police Department finished First Place in the Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge for Municipalities with 1-10 full-time officers. The Department also received Special Recognition for its outstanding Commercial Motor Vehicle traffic safety enforcement. The program is supported by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) by a grant administered through the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Division of Transportation Safety, and coordinated by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP), as well as much-appreciated funding from private entities.

The first-place award in the **2017-2018 Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge** distinguishes Elwood as one of the top agencies in the state for their overall approach to traffic safety. “Traffic safety is one of the highest priorities for the Elwood Police Department,” said Chief Fred Hayes. “Our officers work year-round to help keep our village streets safe and educate our citizens, on the importance of being safe in a vehicle, on a bike, and as a pedestrian.” NHTSA studies show aggressive and consistent traffic enforcement, coupled with educational efforts, offer the greatest chance of reducing the incidence of traffic crashes, injuries and fatalities.

The following statistics support the department's traffic safety efforts:

- Injury crashes decreased by 25% over 3 years
- Elwood Officers issued **4,152 citations in 2017**, an increase of 60% over previous year
- 636 speeding citations were issued resulting in a 37% increase over the previous year
- Issued 168 Overweight Truck citations
- 30 Illegal cellphone use citations were issued
- 519 seat belt citation were issued over the past 3 years

On Wednesday, August 15th Elwood Officers will attend the Traffic Safety Awards Ceremony held at the Midwest Security and Police Expo at the Tinley Park Convention Center. The Challenge rewards creativity, commitment and innovation in traffic safety. The program format is designed to encourage agencies to set comprehensive goals, develop positive traffic safety programs, share their experiences with others, and recognizes the best overall traffic safety programs in Illinois. The program targets three major traffic safety priorities: occupant protection, speeding and impaired driving. It recognizes agencies for the approach and effectiveness of their overall highway safety programs. Agencies are evaluated not just for enforcement initiatives, but for innovating problem solving in their communities, using public information activities and creating departmental policies that support their traffic enforcement campaign efforts. The Traffic Safety Challenge provides law enforcement agencies with an opportunity to make a significant difference in the communities they serve. Winning programs effectively combine many different strategies to reduce crashes and injuries in their jurisdiction.

For more information about the Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge, please visit www.iltrafficchallenge.org.

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