Sample Proclamation

October 10, 2017

October 10, 2017, has been declared Put The Brakes On Fatalities Day by the (TITLE OR NAME OF CITY, COUNTY, STATE OR ORGANIZATION);

WHEREAS, Traffic crashes in 2015 caused 35,092 fatalities which was an increase of 7.2% over 2014. The crashes caused 2.44 million injuries. An average of 96 people died each day in motor vehicle crashes in 2015, one fatality every 15 minutes.

WHEREAS, In 2015, 48 percent of passenger vehicle occupants killed in traffic crashes were unrestrained; however, seat belts saved over 13,941 lives over age 5 and under 5 child restraints saved 266 children. An estimated 2,573 lives were saved by frontal air bags.

WHEREAS, Distracted driving is a dangerous epidemic on America’s roadways. In 2015, there were 3,477 people killed and an estimated 391,000 injured in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers.

WHEREAS, In 2015, alcohol-related crashes account for 10,265 or 29% of all traffic fatalities;

WHEREAS, In 2015, speeding was a contributing factor in 27% of all fatal crashes;

WHEREAS, In 2015, large trucks were involved in 11% of all fatal crashes with 74% being occupants of other vehicles, 10% non-occupants and 16% occupants of large trucks;

WHEREAS, In 2015, motorcyclists accounted for 4,976 or 14% of all fatalities with 41% known helmeted. An additional over 81,000 were injured with 67% known wearing helmets at the time of the crash;

WHEREAS, The economic cost alone of motor vehicle crashes in 2010 was $242 billion (most recent year cost data is available);

WHEREAS, Poor road conditions and obsolete highways need to be addressed in order to reduce highway deaths. The use of cost-effective roadway safety improvements such as all-weather signing and markings, traffic signals, skid resistant pavements and removal of roadside hazards could also greatly reduce the number of traffic crashes;

WHEREAS, The use of safer driving behaviors such as not talking or text messaging on cell phones, the use of seat belts and helmets (motorcycles), not drinking and driving, and obeying traffic laws would dramatically reduce the number of traffic-related injuries and deaths;

WHEREAS, The continued development of safer vehicles and protective safety equipment for motorcycles (such as helmets) will enhance people’s ability to protect themselves and their families from preventable and tragic permanent injuries and deaths;

Now, THEREFORE, I (NAME OF ELECTED OFFICIAL) (TITLE OR NAME OF CITY, COUNTY, STATE OR ORGANIZATION), do hereby proclaim October 10, 2017 as Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day, and call upon everyone to help save lives by spreading these important messages throughout our communities specifically on this day and also all other days of the year.