



# WESTPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## Press Release

### **2019 U DRIVE. U TEXT. U PAY. CAMPAIGN**

It's no secret that distracted driving is a major danger on our nation's roads. Today, it is almost impossible to go through the day without seeing a distracted driver behind the wheel of a vehicle. To help crack down on this dangerous—and often, illegal—habit, the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) teamed up with the Westport Police Department April 2 to April 30, 2019, for the national U Drive. U Text. U Pay. high-visibility enforcement effort. Westport officers issued 183 citations to violators of Connecticut's distracted-driving law during the recent enforcement period. The law provides that no person shall operate a motor vehicle upon a highway while using a hand-held mobile telephone to engage in a call or while using a mobile electronic device. An operator of a motor vehicle who types, sends or reads a text message with a hand-held mobile telephone or mobile electronic device while operating a motor vehicle shall be in violation.

According to NHTSA, between 2012 and 2017, nearly 20,000 people died in crashes involving a distracted driver. In fact, 3,450 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers in 2016, alone, accounting for a 2.2-percent increase in fatalities as compared to the previous year. Nearly one-tenth of all fatal crashes that year were reported as distraction-affected.

While the high visibility enforcement mobilization is over, the Westport Police Department is teaming up with the Connecticut Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office and NHTSA Region 2 Office to make sure all motorists carry the message to keep their eyes on the road and their hands on the wheel beyond the enforcement effort. Want to reach for that cell phone? Remember: U Drive. U Text. U Pay.

For more information, visit: [www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov](http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov)

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