

# DEKALB POLICE DEPARTMENT

David Byrd, Chief of Police



## **PRESS RELEASE**



For Immediate Release

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To Provide Info Call 815-748-8400

To Report a Crime/Request Emergency Police Response Call 9-1-1

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## **DeKalb Police Department to be focused on enforcing Child Passenger Safety Laws through end of September**

*Sept. 21 is National Seat Check Saturday*

The DeKalb Police Department today announced it is partnering with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for Child Passenger Safety Week, which runs Sept. 15-21, to help ensure the safety of young children traveling in our community.

Officers will be patrolling with a special focus through the end of September on enforcing child passenger safety violations.

According to NHTSA, motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for children. Every day in 2022, an average of three children 14 and younger were killed in crashes, and another 429 were injured. NHTSA also reports that 39% of children 14 and younger who died in crashes in 2022 in cars, pickups, vans and SUVs were unbuckled. What's more, 52% of child passengers 14 and younger killed in pickup trucks in 2022 were unrestrained – more than any other vehicle category. The takeaway? Bigger vehicles don't protect child passengers, but car seats, booster seats and seat belts do.

When it comes to child passengers, there is a right seat for every age and developmental stage, from infants to teens. Whether it's a rear-facing car seat, a forward-facing car seat installed with a tether, a booster seat or a seat belt, a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician can put parents' minds at ease by discussing correct car seat selection and showing them how to correctly install that seat in their vehicle. Children should stay in each seat and position until they outgrow those limits, and it's important for all children under 13 to ride in the back seat.

The campaign is funded by federal traffic safety funds from NHTSA administered by IDOT.

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### **PLEASE REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY**

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