



CITY OF MELROSE

POLICE DEPARTMENT

MICHAEL LYLE
Chief

56 West Foster Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone - (781) 665-1212
Facsimile - (781) 979-4213

The Melrose Police Department Receives Child Passenger Safety Equipment Grant *Funds Will Make Child Safety Seats Available to Area Residents in Need*

The Melrose Police Department has received a \$5,000 grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Highway Safety Division (EOPSS-HSD) to expand its child passenger safety efforts. Melrose is one of 14 communities in the Commonwealth to be awarded Child Passenger Safety Equipment grants totaling \$106,000, which were given to non-profits and municipal departments to reduce motor vehicle fatalities and injuries involving children.

The grants will be used primarily to purchase child safety seats for free distribution to parents and caregivers in need. Nationwide, traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for children ages three to 14. Properly installed child safety seats have been proven to reduce the risk of death and injury in crashes. It is estimated that 75% of child passenger safety equipment is installed incorrectly.

"Unfortunately, more families and caregivers in our community find themselves financially strapped. With this grant, the Melrose Police Department can better serve those residents who find it difficult to afford child safety and booster seats to protect their children from death or injury in a motor vehicle crash," said Sgt Jonathan Goc. "We can also assist residents in the proper installation of child safety seats and booster seats through our check-up and fitting station program."

For child safety seat installation and/or check-up please contact Officer Applegate our car seat technician at 781-665-1212. For upcoming child seat checkup events or to find a fitting station near you, please visit www.mass.gov/childsafetyseats.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recently updated its motor vehicle safety recommendations, advising that children are best protected by using rear facing safety seats up to the specific age and weight limits of the safety seat. Massachusetts state law also requires the use of booster seats until a child is 57 inches tall or eight years of age. NHTSA data shows that among children under age five in passenger vehicles, an estimated 309 lives were saved in 2009 by restraint use. Of these 309 lives saved, 284 were associated with the use of child safety seats and 26 with the use of adult seat belts. At 100 percent child safety seat use for children under age five, an estimated 372 lives (that is, an additional 63) could have been saved in 2009. Over the period from 1975 through 2009, an estimated 9,310 lives were saved by child restraints (child safety seats or adult seat belts).

For more information on how to obtain a child safety seat please call Sgt Jonathan Goc at the Melrose Police Department, 781-979-4485, or the Massachusetts Child Passenger Safety Hotline at 1-877-392-5956 or go to www.mass.gov/childsafetyseats.