

Press Release
North Plainfield Police Department
Distracted Driving
April 12, 2018

Chief William G. Parenti announced the North Plainfield police to continue former Prosecutor Geoffrey Soriano's "Put it Down" campaign. April is Distracted Driving Awareness month. We have received a grant money from the National Highway Traffic Safety Division to collaborate with the u-text u-drive u-pay. Texting and driving is the trifecta of driving distracted. Think about it, the driver takes their eyes off the road, removes a hand (sometimes both hands) from the wheel, and changes the focus of the brain from driving to thinking about how they want to reply and then concentrating on typing.

North Plainfield takes this very seriously and in addition to the grant-funded officers, we will have our regular patrols and our traffic safety division saturating the streets. This problem continues to grow and is now more dangerous than DUI. In 2016, there were 130 traffic fatalities for DUI vs. 680 fatalities for distracted driving in NJ.

Last year the State started a program asking the public to help. We encourage motorists to use hands free calling and report distracted drivers to #77. Distracted driving is not just cellphone use. We see drivers shaving, putting on makeup, watching a video, adjusting the radio, eating, reading books or newspapers. All of those will get you a summons Chief Parenti said.