

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Forest Hill, TX-May 18, 2009] The City of Forest Hill Police Department is once again participating in the state-wide STEP Program. STEP, which stands for Selective Traffic Enforcement Program, is a "Wave" grant initiative that allows Police Departments to take the money allotted to them and apply it to enforcing certain traffic violations throughout the year. The first "Wave" was completed in February; the second wave was completed in March and the third wave is currently taking place.

The STEP program is sponsored by the Texas Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The grant allows all City of Forest Hill police officers, including two motor officers, to work overtime or regular time (depending on how the grant is written) strictly on traffic detail. The grant traditionally allows the officers to enforce speeding, seatbelt and DWI violations.

The May, 2009 program focused on the "Click It or Ticket" campaign. The national campaign focused on teen seat belt safety the week of May 11th. "This program has been very beneficial for not only our officers but our community," stated Police Chief Rex Phelps. "Our team works daily to enhance public safety," Phelps added.

The "Wave" grant allows the Police Department to participate on certain holidays. Programs in 2009 have been held around Valentines Day, for two weeks in early March and now around Memorial Day. Those remaining include Independence Day and Labor Day. At the conclusion of the last "Wave" in March, speed compliance was at 32%, up from 24%.

For more information about the program and its successes in Forest Hill, contact Corporal William Glock at the Forest Hill Police Department, (817) 531-5250 or via email at wglock@foresthilltx.org.

About the City of Forest Hill

The City of Forest Hill was established in 1946. It is home to more than 13,000 residents and over 300 businesses. It is located in southeast Tarrant County. In 2009, the City was named the 5th fastest growing city in Tarrant County by the *Fort Worth Business Press*.

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