



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Forest Hill, TX-March 28, 2008] 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 ended March 18th.

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 the 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 2008 grant for the Forest Hill Police Department was written for use in speeding violations. "Participation in this program has been very beneficial for not only our officers but our community. Currently, we are at 43% compliance," stated Police Chief Rex Phelps. To explain, that means 43% of the people on the streets of Forest Hill are not breaking the speed limit law. "I'm encouraged by those high numbers. We want to do whatever we can to enhance public safety," Phelps added.

The "Wave" grant allows the Police Department to participate on certain holidays. Enforcement took place the week preceding Valentines Day in February and for two weeks in early March. Those remaining include Memorial day, Independence Day and Labor Day. The latter will tie directly into the national and state "Click It or Ticket" media campaign.

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.

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 2007-2008, the City was named the 10th fastest growing city in Tarrant County by the *Fort Worth Business Press*.

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