Distracted Driving Awareness Week

In support of National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP) asked Gov. Bruce Rauner to declare April 24-28 as Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week in an effort to bring attention to the dangers and consequences associated with driving distracted.

Rauner issued the proclamation and both houses passed resolutions identifying April 24-28 as Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week.

The ILACP, in partnership with AAA, and supported by the Illinois State Police, SafetyServe.com, the National Safety Council, the Illinois Insurance Association, almost 300 law enforcement/fire agencies and supporters from the private sector throughout Illinois, will work together during this week to educate motorists on all aspects of distracted driving. This campaign will include the enforcement of applicable state distracted driving laws.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA):

• 3,477 people were killed and an estimated 391,000 injured in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers in 2015. That is a 9% increase in fatalities as compared to the previous year.

• 10% of fatal crashes, 15% of injury crashes, and 14% of all police reported motor vehicle crashes in 2015 were reported as distraction affected crashes.

• Texting while driving has become an especially problematic trend among millennials. Young drivers, 16-24 years old, have been observed using handheld electronic devices while driving at higher rates than older drivers since 2007.

According to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety:

• In analyzing 2009-12 data, that even while more than 8 in 10 drivers believed it completely unacceptable for a motorist to text or e-mail behind the wheel, more than a third of those same respondents admitted to reading text messages while driving.