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Media Release

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LaGrange Police Department Reports Reduction in Motor Vehicle Collisions and Injuries in 2018

LaGrange, Ga. March 19, 2019– The LaGrange Police Department is reporting a 7% reduction in motor vehicle collisions and a 15% reduction in injuries reported in 2018 compared to 2017 as a result of the Hands-Free Distracted Driving Law that went into effect July 1st, 2018.

The new law requires citizens to use hands-free technology while using cellphones and other electronic devices while driving.



The Hands-Free Distracted Driving bill went into effect July 1, 2018

This law prohibits drivers from:

- Holding or supporting a phone or device while driving
- Using a hand held phone or device to write, send, or read texts, message, emails while driving
- Watching a video on your phone or device while driving
- Recording a video on your phone or device while driving

In 2017, LPD investigated 2,446 motor vehicle collisions with 445 of those involving injuries. There was one fatality. During this year, LPD issued 37 Distracted Driving traffic contacts.

In 2018, officers investigated 2,290 motor vehicle collisions with 377 injuries of those involving injuries. There were two fatalities reported in 2018. These fatal collisions involved an individual on a bicycle and an individual unlawfully operating a dirt bike on a city street while disregarding a stop sign. In 2018, LPD issued 99 Distracted Driving traffic contacts.



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“A major revision to the Hands-Free Distracted Driving Law has made it possible for our officers to more aggressively address the issue of distracted driving,” said LPD Lt. Mark Kostial. “Clearly the ability to identify and stop distracted drivers is a huge tool for law enforcement

and as a result we are seeing a reduction in collisions and injuries on our roadways.”

According to a report by ValuePenguin that examined where Georgia’s law enforcement is cracking down on Distracted Driving, Troup County ranks #1 for large communities with a 933% increase in Distracted Driving convictions from 2017-2018.

For more information on the ValuePenguin report please click on the following link: <https://www.valuepenguin.com/auto-insurance/worst-county-georgia-distracted-driving>.

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