

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

East Haven Mayor Kicks off “Click it or Ticket” Seat Belt Enforcement Program made possible with Connecticut Department of Transportation Grant

East Haven, CT – Mayor April Capone Almon is pleased to announce that the Town of East Haven is joining with hundreds of other law enforcement agencies across the country in renewing a pledge to save lives by intensifying efforts to enforce seat belt laws-among all motorists and around the clock - during the 2008 *Click It or Ticket* mobilization, which runs from May 19 - June 1.

With funding made possible by the Connecticut Department of Transportation East Haven was awarded a grant to make possible seat belt enforcement checks on various main roads in East Haven. “This is the first time in many years that the Town of East Haven will participate in this important initiative and I couldn’t be more pleased.” The Mayor explained and she then went on to say “This grant will help us work with our dedicated police force to increase the safety of our residents and ultimately save lives - at no additional cost to the taxpayers.”

To kick off this event, local municipalities which were awarded *Click it or Ticket* funding, including East Haven, were invited to the Press Conference held at the CT Department of Transportation for May 13, 2008. In attendance with Governor M. Jody Rell were Mayor Capone Almon, Erica Berg, the Mayor’s grants writer and police officers from around the state including two East Haven officers, Officer Al Maio and Inspector Gaetano Nappi.

In 2006, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 15,046 passenger vehicle occupants were killed between the nighttime hours of 6 p.m. and 5:59 a.m. Nearly two-thirds (64%) of those killed at night were NOT wearing seatbelts- compared to less than half (46%) of the passenger vehicle occupant killed during daytime hours. The Mayor commented on these statistics by saying “The simple act of wearing a seatbelt can save lives. This grant will enable us to promote that message and enforce Connecticut’s significant seatbelt laws. My goal is to secure grants for our town that improve the quality of life for all residents.”

Office of the Mayor
250 Main Street
East Haven, CT 06512
203-468-3204