

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CHILD SAFETY SEAT PROGRAM TO BE EXPANDED**

**Sheriff Requests and Receives Additional \$16,500 In State Funds**

Thanks to some additional State funding and some judicious program streamlining, the Sheriff Department's Child Safety Seat Checkpoint Program is "alive and well," and the 2010 schedule will be expanded, Sheriff Jean Stanfield said today.

Stanfield said she requested, and received an additional \$16,500 for the program from the New Jersey Division of Highway Safety. Meantime, the checkpoints have been reduced from four to three hours for each session, making it possible to stretch the dollars and schedule more.

She anticipates scheduling 10 additional checkpoints to the original schedule of 16, giving parents of infants and young children ample opportunity to ensure that vehicle safety seats are installed properly.

"This program is popular and necessary," said Stanfield. "Since this program was initiated 11 years ago we have inspect more than 9,500 safety seats and shockingly, found that less that 200 were installed correctly.

"We're pleased that so many residents avail themselves of the opportunity to learn how to properly install a child safety seat," she added. "Statistics overwhelmingly demonstrate that child safety seats, properly installed, reduce fatalities."

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**PRESS RELEASE: Child Safety Seats – 5/10/10 – Add One**

The next two checkpoints are Friday, May 21, 2010 at the Community Center at McGuire Air Force Base, and Saturday, May 22, 2010, at Medford Lakes Fire Station on 10 Stokes Road in Medford Lakes. Both are scheduled from 10 AM to 1 PM.

Those interested in viewing the complete schedule can access the Traffic Safety section of the Sheriff's webpage ([www.co.burlington.nj.us](http://www.co.burlington.nj.us)) or contact the department directly at (609) 265-5221. Those who are interested are encouraged to watch for updates.

The Sheriff originally received \$31,500 in funding for the program, most of which covers personnel costs. This was significantly less than the \$89,950 received in 2009.

“However,” said Stanfield, “with the additional funds just received we should be able to schedule a full complement of checkpoints from now throughout the fall, and various locations around the County.”

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, research on the effectiveness of child safety seats shows their use can reduce fatalities for children under one-year-old by 71% and for toddlers (ages 1-4) by 54%.

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