



Making It Official

A *Click It or Ticket* Proclamation for Policymakers

One effective way to build and demonstrate community support for the ***Click It or Ticket/Operation ABC (America Buckles Up Children) May 2004 Mobilization*** is to obtain a mayoral, executive or legislative proclamation declaring the community's support for the stepped-up effort to enforce safety belt laws. Simply contact your local elected official, such as the mayor, legislator or county council representative, and ask him or her to sponsor a proclamation like the one below and, perhaps read it at your launch event. Use the proclamation to publicize the *Click It or Ticket Mobilization* this May and the importance of safety belt use – especially among teens and young adults – in your community by sending it to your local newspapers, television and radio stations.

A Proclamation Supporting *Click It or Ticket/Operation ABC (America Buckles Up Children) May 2004 Mobilization*

Whereas, motor vehicle crashes continue to be the leading cause of death for teens and young adults age 16 to 34; and

Whereas, a third of children age 14 and under ride in the wrong restraint type for their age and size; and

Whereas, 64% of 16- to 20-year-old (and 68% of 18- to 34-year old) passenger vehicle occupants killed or seriously injured in crashes in 2002 were not wearing a safety belt;

Whereas, lap/shoulder safety belts, when used, reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants by 45% and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50%. For light truck occupants, safety belts reduce the risk of fatal injury by 60% and moderate-to-critical injury by 65%; and

Whereas, it is estimated that safety belts save the lives of more than 14,000 motorists each year, and save about \$50 billion in medical care, lost productivity and other injury-related costs nationwide; and

Whereas, the *Click It or Ticket ABC Mobilizations* and similar efforts have dramatically increased safety belt use across the country; and

Whereas, traffic safety advocates across the nation and in this community are working with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to increase safety belt awareness and drive up belt use – especially among teenagers and young adults – as part of the May 2004 *Click It or Ticket Mobilization* and *Buckle Up America Week*;

Therefore, be it resolved, that **[GOVERNING BODY]** proclaims its wholehearted support for the *Click It or Ticket/Operation ABC (America Buckles Up Children) Mobilization* from May 24 to June 6, 2004, in **[CITY, TOWN, COUNTY OR STATE]** and pledges to increase awareness of the *Mobilization* and the benefits of using safety belts on every trip, every time.