For Immediate Release

Date: April 13, 2018  
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The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, Partnering with AAA, is Coordinating its Annual Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week with State and Local Agencies

The Kendall County Sheriff’s Office – In support of National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP) asked the Governor of the State of Illinois to declare April 23rd through April 27th as Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week in an effort to bring attention to the dangers and consequences associated with driving distracted. Governor Rauner issued the proclamation and both houses passed resolutions identifying April 23rd through the 27th as Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week.

The ILACP, in partnership with AAA, and supported by the Illinois State Police, 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 also include the enforcement of applicable state distracted driving laws. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA):

- In 2016, there were 3,450 people killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers, that’s 9% of all fatal crashes were reported as distraction-affected crashes.

- Nine percent of drivers 15-19 years old involved in fatal crashes were reported as distracted. This age group has the largest proportion of drivers who were distracted at the time of the fatal crashes.
According to the AAA 2016 Traffic Safety Culture Index:

- 81.1% of drivers say texting/e-mailing while driving is a very serious to safety and 78.2% say it is completely unacceptable. However, 40.2% of drivers report having read a text or e-mail while driving in the past 30 days and nearly a third (31.4%) typed one.

- More than two thirds (70.4%) of drivers say handheld cell phones use by drivers is unacceptable, while two thirds (65.9%) say hands-free phone use is acceptable.

To learn more about Distracted Driving (SafetyServe.com) offers online course at no cost during Illinois Distracted Driving Awareness Week.

Partnerships have been formed to help further a traffic safety culture in Illinois and to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries resulting from distracted driving. Please help the ILACP, AAA and the Kendall County Sheriff’s Office, to keep Illinois’ roadways safe and Illinois strong.