



## Tigard Police Department PRESS RELEASE

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### **Upcoming Seat Belt and Car Seat Safety Enforcement**

Coinciding with the end of the summer travel season and the Labor Day holiday, the Tigard Police Department will be joining other law enforcement agencies across Oregon for a high-visibility safety enforcement focused on the proper use of seat belts and car seats between Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.

Officers will be using federally-funded overtime to educate the public about safety belt and car seat laws, including a 2017 Oregon law which requires children to ride in a rear-facing car seat until they are at least two years old, instead of age one. This is to better protect a child's head, neck and spine from potential crash injuries, because a rear-facing seat spreads crash forces evenly across the seat and child's body while also limiting forward or sideways motion of the head.

Additionally, crash data from the Oregon Department of Transportation shows that in 2019, the lack of seat belts or child restraints was a factor in 26% of the state's traffic deaths (81 of a total of 308 cases). For drivers and front-seat passengers, simply wearing a seat belt reduced the risk of death in traffic crashes by 45-60%, according to 2017 data from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

This focused enforcement is ahead of National Child Passenger Safety Week, which will be held September 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>. For help selecting or installing child car seats, check for appointments in your area at [https://oregonimpact.org/Child\\_Passenger\\_Safety](https://oregonimpact.org/Child_Passenger_Safety).

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