



CITY OF CLEARWATER

POST OFFICE BOX 4748, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33758-4748
CLEARWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT, 645 PIERCE STREET, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33756
TELEPHONE (727) 562-4242

POLICE DEPARTMENT

RELEASE 10-131

August 19, 2010

Contact: Elizabeth Watts

Public Safety PIO

elizabeth.watts@myclearwater.com

(727) 562-4333

CLEARWATER POLICE TO ENFORCE SCHOOL ZONES AND SAFETY IN BUS STOP AREAS

WHO: Clearwater Police Department

WHAT: Operation School STEP (Special Traffic Enforcement Program)

WHEN: August 24 – 26

WHERE: School Zones within the City of Clearwater

WHY: The Clearwater Police Department will monitor school zones as children head back for the first day of school on August 24. The Traffic Enforcement Team and Patrol Officers will enforce school speed zones and traffic laws regarding safe vehicle operations around school buses.

Officers will look for traffic violations during student arrival and dismissal times. Speeding violations in schools zones carry the following minimum fines:

- 1-9 mph over the speed limit = \$156.00
- 10-14 mph over the speed limit = \$306.00
- 15-19 mph over the speed limit = \$406.00
- 20-29 mph over the speed limit = \$456.00
- Over 30 = court appearance

Officers will also patrol bus stops to ensure safe and legal driving and to make sure drivers are following warning lights and stop signals by school buses.

- Drivers must come to a stop behind the school bus when the stop signals are activated and the stop arm is extended.
- Drivers must stop if coming from the opposite direction UNLESS there is a raised median separating the two directions of travel.

Failing to stop for a school bus will result in a \$271.00 fine.

Officers will also be enforcing pedestrian safety including violating the right of way of a pedestrian in a crosswalk.

