



Central Falls Police Department Office of Public Information

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 13, 2015

CONTACT: Sergeant Joseph D. Tougas

(401) 616-2511, jtougas@centralfallspolice.com

Central Falls Police Department Receives Traffic Grant Funding:

CENTRAL FALLS – The Central Falls Police Department has been awarded a \$67,985.00 grant by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation's Office on Highway Safety for impaired driving, speed and occupant protection enforcement. The grant will allow the Central Falls Police Department to continue aggressive enforcement and public education efforts which have helped reduce speed and impaired driving fatalities and collisions.

The funding from this grant will be specifically utilized in accident reduction efforts by funding excessive speed enforcement, specifically in residential and school zones, and impaired driving enforcement, including funding for continued use of the Central Falls Police Department's drug recognition experts in drugged driving cases. Also included in the funding is occupant protection education and enforcement funding. This funding will allow for enforcement of statewide seat belt enforcement campaigns in Central Falls, as well as funding for car seat installations, car seat inspections, and providing car seats to families unable to provide safe transportation for their children.

Increased education and enforcement efforts from highway safety grants for occupant protection, speed reduction and impaired driving have resulted in a 50% reduction in impaired driving accidents in Central Falls since 2012. These enforcements and education efforts have also been instrumental in no fatal accidents since 2011 and a 35% reduction in pedestrian accidents since 2012.

“The Central Falls Police Department is proud to have been awarded this grant funding,” said police chief, Colonel James J. Mendonca. “In FY 10-11, we had received only \$19,100 in enforcement funds; so in a five-year period, we have improved our enforcement contributions by 256%. This accomplishment, along with our successes in making our community safer for motorist and pedestrian alike, was only made possible from the tireless efforts of the men and woman of the Central Falls Police Department, who are dedicated to saving lives and preventing injuries on our roadways”.

###