

USF POLICE DEPARTMENT MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: March 11, 2016

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SUBJECT: USF Police Begins Issuing Citations as part of Grant Funded High Visibility Enforcement for Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety

The USF Police Department was awarded a \$14,607 grant from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to conduct high visibility enforcement and education as part of Florida's Bicycle/Pedestrian Focused Initiative. This initiative has been ongoing since October with education and warnings. Effective next week, officers will have the discretion to issue citations, as well as education and warnings, as part of this grant funded enforcement.

According to The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV), traffic crashes in Florida resulted in 498 pedestrian fatalities, 7,467 pedestrian injuries, 135 bicyclist fatalities, and 6,520 bicyclist injuries. Based on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Traffic Safety Facts, these rates nearly double the national average for pedestrians and nearly triple the national average for bicyclists.

"We aim to reduce these staggering figures in 2015-16," said Chief Chris Daniel. The USF Police Department plans to conduct multiple education and enforcement details focused on bicycle and pedestrian safety. Grant details began in October and are scheduled to run through May 2016. The first months of the initiative have focused on education and warnings. Beginning March 14, 2016, violators may receive citations.

Remember: Alert Today. Alive Tomorrow.