



# Results released from Hall Road traffic enforcement initiative

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**MACOMB COUNTY —** Local law enforcement officials are telling drivers on Hall Road to slow down and pay attention after the results of a monthlong

traffic enforcement initiative were released Dec. 5.

The initiative took place all of October and resulted in 2,083 violations being issued by several law enforcement agencies along Hall Road.

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"One thing we've done during this campaign is it's not anything about citations," said Michigan State Police Public Information Officer Michael Shaw. "What this is is education. We've seen people die at an alarming rate across Michigan and also in the major metropolitan areas, and we want to curtail that."

Speeding was the top offense for the violations issued. The Sterling Heights Police Department issued 360 speeding violations throughout the month, while state police troopers issued 373 in just six days of operation.

Officials said speeding tickets were primarily issued only for drivers exceeding speed limits by 20 mph or more.

"That was one of the things when we talked to our troopers and when they (local agencies) talked to their officers. We're not talking five over or seven over — we're talking 20-30 mph over the speed limit," Shaw said. "It's a senseless death for someone to be killed on the freeway when somebody is going 20 mph over the speed limit or watching Netflix on their phone."

Sterling Heights Police Lt.



Photo by Thomas Franz

**More than 2,000 violations were issued by law enforcement agencies throughout October along Hall Road, which is pictured here at the intersection of Schoenherr Road.**

Aaron Burgess said distracted driving was indeed another key worry to come out of the traffic initiative, as his department issued 127 violations for the infraction.

"It's sad when you see things like that, because all we're trying to do is prevent somebody from being injured or killed," Burgess said. "We're not hiding behind signs or trees — we're sitting right out in the open. All we want people to do is slow down, pay attention, and get off your phones so there aren't any injuries."

In Shelby Township, traffic Lt. Jeff Daniel said concerns over the safety of intersections along Schoenherr Road have been a focus of his department, but the number of serious accidents in the township has decreased this year.

He added that troopers on the Shelby Township side of Hall Road

have noticed an increase in the number of drivers trying to speed up to make it from one stop light to the next, while often failing to do so.

"If people just relax and take their time, they're probably going to end up making the lights as they go through, as opposed to hurrying up and hitting the brakes," Daniel said.

In total, Sterling Heights officers issued the most violations during the month, with 908, while the Michigan State Police (577), Utica (211), Clinton Township (197), Macomb County Sheriff's Office (129), Shelby Township (53) and Chesterfield Township (eight) contributed to the total. There were 66 arrests made.

To follow up their work during October, the agencies will begin their Operation Blue Light program, which will run Dec. 19-

Jan. 1.

The program is described by officials as a crime reduction initiative aimed at the areas around large shopping centers along Hall Road.

In addition to highly visible traffic enforcement, the agencies will have a greater presence in parking lots to prevent theft and increase pedestrian safety.

"It's just going to be us doing what cops do, and that's enforcing the law, making sure people are getting to their shopping areas the way they're supposed to, and making sure that they get there safely and making sure they get home safely," Shaw said.

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