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Press Release

October 11, 2012

Sheriff Jim Beutler has announced the Ohio department of Public safety's (ODPS) Office of Criminal Justice Services awarded \$30,503.00 in federal traffic safety funding to his Office for federal fiscal year 2013.

"These funds are essential in ensuring that we are doing everything we possibly can to keep our local community safer", said Sheriff Beutler. "Based on crash data, impaired driving, speed, failure to yield, seat belt usage, distracted driving, and motorcycle safety is a priority for Putnam County and we are pleased to work with our partners at the state level to address this safety issue". Prevention education is the key to saving lives along with high visibility during peak designated times. "We are working with the Safe Communities Coalition, who too receives grant dollars for education, to reduce the number of crashes, injuries and deaths.

We have reduced these numbers over the past 5 years by 30%, going from 644 crashes on '07 to 452 in 2011. We have maintained an average of 5 deaths per year over the past 5 years, some years lower and some higher, with only 1 so far this year, which is one too many. Historically, the average deaths were 12-15 per year, so I believe the efforts are working as we continue to find ways to keep our community safer.

These funds are passed through OCJS from the National Highway Safety Traffic Administration by competitive grant proposals. OCJS funds are then awarded to projects that will have the greatest impact on reducing fatal and or injury crashes and improving traffic safety systems. Log onto www.ocjs.ohio.gov for more information about statewide efforts to improve safety on Ohio highways.

