



From the Office of the Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE

Utica Police Department- 413 Oriskany Street West, Utica, NY 13502
Office: (315) 223-3400 Cell: (315) 534-1221 Fax: (315) 223-3409
Email: mwilliams@uticapd.com

Mark W. Williams, Chief of Police

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Chief Mark W. Williams

Traffic Safety Concern- Pedestrians Walking in the Roadway

The City of Utica's Bureau of Police has received numerous concerns from members of the community regarding individuals walking in roadways, refusing to move out of the roadways, and obstructing vehicular traffic. This is a public safety issue for both the motorists attempting to travel on the roadway and the pedestrians walking in the roadway.

As a result, the Utica Police Department will be strictly enforcing section 1156 (a) of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law which prohibits persons from walking in the roadway *where sidewalks are provided and they may be used with safety* in an effort to gain compliance of the law and to promote safe passage for both motorists and pedestrians on the city streets.

Section 1156 (a) of the New York Vehicle and Traffic Law is a violation and is punishable of a fine of up to a \$100 dollars and 15 days in jail. Persons cited for this violation and who do not appear in court or answer the summons may be subject to a warrant of arrest.

According to the data by from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

- In 2009, 4,092 pedestrians were killed and an estimated 59,000 were injured in traffic crashes in the United States.
- On average, a pedestrian was killed every two hours and injured every nine minutes in traffic crashes.
- Almost three-fourths (72%) of pedestrian fatalities occurred in an urban setting.
- Almost 90 percent of pedestrian fatalities occurred during normal weather conditions, compared to rain, snow and fog.
- A majority of the pedestrian fatalities, almost 70 percent, occurred during the nighttime.

Last year (2010) the Utica Police Department issued 286 summonses for this traffic offense and we will be vigilant in our enforcement efforts this year as well.