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# KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

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For immediate release:  
KCSO news release #06-021 / 125 / 22 / 2

Thursday, May 18, 2006

**Attention assignment desks: media advisory**

## Unique traffic safety enforcement vehicle to be unveiled and placed into commission

**Port Orchard, Wash.**

**Notice:** To all speed demons, lane hogs, Euro racers and others with reckless driving habits, now hear this!

There will soon be a new set of wheels on the roads of Kitsap County to combat aggressive driving antics. You won't know that there's a Sheriff's traffic enforcement deputy in the area, until you operate your vehicle in a manner that warrants attention. But, by then, it's too late. You've been warned!

**Event:** The Kitsap County Sheriff's Office, together with the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) and the Subaru Corporation will conduct a public unveiling of a new traffic safety enforcement vehicle at 2:00 p.m., Friday, May 26, at Peninsula Subaru (dealership), 3888 West State Highway 16, Bremerton (in the Gorst area).

On hand will be representatives from the Sheriff's Office; WTSC; Subaru, Kitsap County Public Works and the Board of County Commissioners.

**Background:** "Over the past several years the Sheriff's Office has noted a growing concern by Kitsap residents about aggressive driving behavior in this county," said Sheriff Steve Boyer. "Erratic and reckless driving complaints, coupled with traffic collisions caused by such actions, are on the rise.

"To address this problem we have implemented a county-wide traffic safety initiative, designed to be phased into operation in several stages," added the Sheriff. "To date this initiative has included the addition of two full-time motorcycle patrol deputies; the establishment of a school zone and speed enforcement position; hosting of the Kitsap County Traffic Safety Coordinator and, soon, the introduction of a new, low profile, traffic safety enforcement vehicle."

**Vehicle:** With assistance from WTSC, the Peninsula Subaru dealership, Subaru Western Region and Subaru Corporate, an opportunity has afforded the Sheriff's Office the ability to purchase a new Subaru Legacy for use as an unmarked traffic safety enforcement vehicle. The primary role of the vehicle will be to conduct school zone safety enforcement and to combat aggressive driving.

**Partnership:** The Subaru Legacy was partially funded with Subaru donations: \$1,800 from Peninsula Subaru, \$3,000 from Subaru Western Region and \$1,500 from Subaru Corporate. The remaining balance of \$21,500 was paid through a grant from WTSC. The Sheriff's Office Traffic Unit fulfilled all grant requirements and paid for the emergency and police related equipment that has been added to the vehicle. The equipment installation expertise was provided by technicians from Kitsap County Public Works, as they methodically modified the Legacy from a passenger car into a Sheriff's patrol vehicle.

**Three Es:** "We encourage drivers in Kitsap County to operate their vehicles responsibly and safely," said Sheriff Boyer. "And while we will continue to work with partnerships involving the three "Es" of traffic safety: education and engineering... the third "E" is enforcement. While the addition of the Subaru Legacy is something new, it will not be the last. Our goal is to provide a safer vehicle operational environment upon our roadways for county residents."

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