



## POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Chief of Police

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TO: Media Release

FROM: Capt. Chris DeHart

DATE: July 17, 2021

SUBJECT: Operation Southern Shield

CC: Asst. Chief Burnett

July 19 - 24, 2021 the Rome Police Department will partner with agencies across the State of Georgia as part of the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety's Operation Southern Shield program. This is a partnership between surrounding states to crackdown on accident/injury causing violations. Officers will be monitoring high crash corridors and targeting drivers who are speeding, unrestrained, and distracted.

All too often, innocent citizens suffer tragic consequences such as the loss of loved ones due to the careless disregard of human life by others. The Rome Police Department and surrounding agencies are committed to creating safe roadways for all travelers. We are intensifying enforcement during the state wide operation period.

In Georgia, alcohol and drug related crashes result in the deaths of nearly 500 people every year. In addition, the estimated loss averages \$73,000 per injured survivor and \$2.9 million per fatality. The goal of the campaign is relatively simple: to decrease incidents of death and injury on Georgia's roadways.

We will do our part, however it takes community support to make a difference. You can help support the program by making responsible decisions about careless driving behavior, you can speak out to friends and family who may be making the wrong decision, and you can notify law enforcement if you spot a dangerous driver on the roadways.

If the community works together to spread the word and change behavior, we can all help stop the rising total of unnecessary crashes, injuries, and deaths on our roadways. Let's all work together to have a safe travel period for everyone in Rome and Floyd County.

