



Operation Hang Up Continues Through Tomorrow in Westchester

22 tickets issued on Route 6 April 11. Tickets for distracted driving have jumped in the past year, state officials said.

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Tickets issued to motorists for texting while driving increased 35 percent statewide from 2013 to 2014, as police continue to crack down on distracted drivers.

“This reckless behavior endangers everyone on the road and has resulted in far too much needless tragedy,” Governor Andrew Cuomo said in a prepared statement. “I thank law enforcement

agencies across the state for their continued vigilance and for making it crystal clear that texting while driving will not be tolerated in New York.”

Statewide, police agencies handed out 75,353 tickets in 2014 for texting while driving, compared to 55,673 in 2013. The biggest increase was in New York City, where tickets jumped from 31,835 in 2013 to 47,914 in 2014—an increase of 50 percent. Since 2011, when New York State first enacted tough new driving while texting laws, tickets have increased more than 700 percent. Only 9,015 tickets were given statewide in 2011.

SEE:

- **State Police Launch ‘Operation Hang Up’ to Tackle Distracted Driving** (<http://patch.com/new-york/southeast/state-police-launch-operation-hang-tackle-distracted-driving>)
- **22 Tickets Issued Yesterday in Distracted Driving Crackdown in Cortlandt** (<http://patch.com/new-york/peekskill/22-tickets-issued-yesterday-distracted-driving-crackdown>)

Under current New York State law, motorists caught texting and driving face up to a \$450 fine and five points on their license. Probationary and junior drivers could face a 120 day suspension for a first offense, and can lose their license for one year if a second offense is committed within six months.

The latest Operation Hang Up initiative continues through Wednesday.

Law enforcement agencies statewide are targeting distracted drivers through special patrols. Funding to police agencies for Operation Hang Up and other special initiatives is provided by the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC). The GTSC provides grants to the New York State Police and local police agencies to combat distracted driving, drinking and driving, speeding and other targeted enforcement activities.



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Man arrested Friday night in New Jersey.

Long Island Snowman Becomes International Star (/new-york/massapequa/long-island-snowman-becomes-international-star-0)

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Massapequa Park snowman survives thanks to Internet fans and snow donations from across the region.

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See the world-famous cherry blossom trees live at the Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C. Peak bloom is this weekend.

UPDATE: Children Allowed to Play Alone in Park, So Police Take Them (/maryland/bethesda-chevy Chase/police-take-children-allowed-play-alone-park)

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Maryland free-range parents, who let their kids walk home alone, had a third encounter with county workers for possible neglect.

Watch: Local Celebrity Mountain Lion Shacks Up in Mansion's Crawl Space (/california/northhollywood/famous-griffith-park-mountain-lion-shacks-crawl-space-hollywood-hills-home)

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A security technician for a Hollywood Hills homeowner encountered P-22, the Griffith Park mountain lion, in the home's crawl space.

Photo: Gator Strolled Up to Florida McDonald's (/florida/bradenton/gator-strolls-florida-mcdonalds-0)

(/florida/bradenton-gator-strolls-florida-mcdonalds-0)

It's unclear whether he wanted fries with his order.

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