

Anoka County Creates New Tool for Domestic Violence Victims

Building on its innovative and effective approach to combatting domestic violence, Anoka County has created and launched a new tool for victims. Click [HERE](#) for more information.



Spring Lake Park Police Department Partners with LightOn! and Bobby and Steve's Auto World to Change Lives.

City of Spring Lake Park (April 17, 2017) - Pulling someone over for a lights equipment violation often puts police officers in a tough spot. Driving with a broken headlight, taillight, or turn signal, is a dangerous public safety issue, but for Minnesotans struggling to make ends meet, that ticket can force a choose between a minor auto repair and buying groceries for their family. It can also be the beginning of a downward economic spiral, which for some, winds up in multiple tickets, confrontations with police, and sometimes leading to the impoundment of their vehicle.

Thanks to LightOn!, the first-of-its kind program, Spring Lake Park Officers are able to offer a solution to those costly repairs. Now, when a vehicle is pulled over for a lights equipment violation, officers can provide drivers with LightOn! vouchers redeemable for free repairs of broken lights at any of the eight Twin Cites Bobby and Steve's Auto Worlds. The vouchers are valid even if the officer issues a citation.

The program is created by MicroGrants, a Minnesota non-profit that works with partner agencies to promote and support economic self-sufficiency through strategic grants to low-income people of potential. The repairs are done at no charge to the person issued the voucher. MicroGrants underwrites the cost of the repairs with support from Bobby and Steve's.

There is no qualifying criteria or paperwork to issue or receive the voucher. The officer making the stop uses his or her best judgment in telling the driver that a voucher is available if the cost of repairs isn't affordable.

“The LightOn! program is a win-win. It helps people avoid economic uncertainty, solves a public safety issue, and brightens someone's day. That doesn't happen very often when you're writing tickets all day.”

“We believe that this will be a positive conversation between the officer and the driver, explaining the program. If the person can't afford the repairs, the officer has a solution. But we hope the discussion also will touch on how the program can be extended to others who may be in greater need if the driver is able to afford repairs and doesn't need the voucher. This conversation about solutions and the community can be an important part of building trust and goodwill between the public and police departments,” said MicroGrants CEO Don Samuels.

Spring Lake Park Police Department joins 14 other police departments around the metro to include Minneapolis, St. Paul, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Columbia Heights, Crystal, Edina, Maplewood, Mounds View, Richfield, Robbinsdale, Roseville, St. Louis Park, and West St. Paul.

Spring Lake Park Police Department Releases Crime Map To Public

The Spring Lake Park Police Department and BAIR Analytics Inc. recently partnered to provide a new way for the public to stay informed about crime in Spring Lake Park. The Spring Lake Park Police Department now has an online crime map called RAIDS Online (www.raidsonline.com) that maps and analyzes crime data, alerts Spring Lake Park citizens about crimes in their area, and allows the Spring Lake Park Police Department to quickly alert the public about crimes as they occur.

Spring Lake Park citizens can view a map and grid with all the crimes in their area, sign up for neighborhood watch reports that automatically email a breakdown of recent crime activity, and submit an anonymous tip about a crime directly to their law enforcement agency. RAIDS Online automatically syncs with the Spring Lake Park Police Department's record system to keep crime information updated online and in the mobile app. RAIDS Online cleans and geocodes the crime data, then displays all the incidents on a map, grid and analytics dashboard along with some basic information about the incidents, including the type of crime, location type, block-level address, date and time.

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