

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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CLAY COUNTY

October 16, 2006

Major Grady Carrick
Florida Highway Patrol
7322 Normandy Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32205

Dear Major Carrick,

This letter is to recognize the ongoing efforts of one of your personnel to promote child safety in our county. **Trooper Dawn Tomlinson** continually goes "above and beyond" the call of duty to participate in events, assist and advise our technicians in the Clay County Car Seat Safety Program, and is a vital partner in the drive to educate parents and care givers in the safe transport of children.

On September 23, 2006, Trooper Tomlinson participated in our monthly checkpoint at the "4th Annual Kids Day" event at Middleburg High School. We checked 27 seats during the event, including 3 seats in a 1997 Yukon belonging to Kim Wiley of Starke. Several serious errors were found and corrected during the inspection, and Mrs. Wiley returned her 3-year old, 31-pound daughter to a 5-point harness seat, from the low-back booster she came to the checkpoint in, at Trooper Tomlinson's urging. Trooper Tomlinson and Meredith Vaughn from the Clay County Sheriffs Office actually performed the installations for Mrs. Wiley's children.

On October 4, 2006, Mrs. Wiley and her children were involved in a head-on collision in SW Starke which totaled her vehicle. She and her three children were scared, but uninjured. It is quite possible her children's fate could have been much more tragic had she not stopped at the checkpoint. The local media promoted our program and the importance of child safety seats in broadcasts on Monday, October 16, 2006.

Each year, over 250 seats are inspected in Clay County, and numerous educational opportunities are provided to the public and agencies tasked with transporting children. I can always depend on Dawn's participation in both educational opportunities and checkpoints, and find her expertise and guidance to be invaluable. Once children leave our checkpoints, though, we rarely hear about "what went right".

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize **Trooper Dawn Tomlinson** for her continued efforts to participate in and promote such a vital program in the Northeast Florida area. Many lives have undoubtedly been saved due to her commitment to passenger safety.

Sincerely,

Captain Bernita A. Bush, PIO
Coordinator, Clay County Car Seat Safety Program

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