



**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
December 13, 2012

**CONTACT:** Portage Department  
of Public Safety  
Officer Kyle Doster  
269-329-4567

**Portage Department of Public Safety Receives \$50,000 Grant**  
Implements Location-Based Crime and Traffic Crash Model of Enforcement

The City of Portage was recently awarded a \$50,000 Justice Assistance Grant by the State of Michigan to implement an operational model of Data Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS). DDACTS integrates location-based crime and traffic crash data to establish effective and efficient deployment of law enforcement resources. Crime and traffic crash data have been analyzed to identify “hot spots.” The Portage Department of Public Safety – Police Division will strategically deploy police officers to the hot spots for high-visibility enforcement activities during peak times. This method of deployment has proven successful throughout the country. The first hot spot identified is the South Westnedge Avenue corridor, between Milham Avenue and Romence Road. Increased police presence in this area will begin in mid-December with the goal of reducing crime and traffic crashes.

Drivers will notice an increased police presence on South Westnedge Avenue during specified hours. The assigned officer’s priority will be to make citizen contacts and conduct field interviews. The object is **not** to increase traffic citations, but to modify driver behaviors and deter crime. Of significance, enforcement action will take place for any criminal offenses encountered during the high-visibility patrols.

#####