

## Sheriff McDermott partners with Fallon Ambulance to distribute autism seatbelt covers

Norfolk County Sheriff Jerry P. McDermott recently announced that the sheriff's office will broaden its efforts to include a partnership with Fallon Ambulance to help distribute autism seatbelt covers to those in the community.

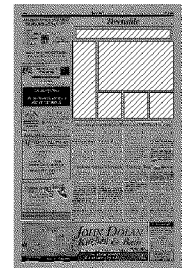
The Norfolk County Sheriff's Office recently began supplying autism awareness seatbelt covers to alert first responders in an emergency that someone in a car is on the autism spectrum and may not necessarily be cooperative with those trying to help. The covers are printed with the words, "I have autism; I may resist help." They slip over the straps of a seatbelt and are available free of charge at police departments throughout Norfolk County. The sheriff's office is working with several organizations on the project, including the [Flutie Foundation](#), the Arc of Massachusetts, and Autism Speaks.

"Fallon Ambulance has been an outstanding partner in the community," said McDermott. "I'd like to thank them for stepping up and volunteering to serve as a distribution center for our autism seatbelt covers." In addition to now assisting with the seatbelt cover program, Fallon is also a partner in the NCSO's "Are You Ok?" Program, which offers a reliable, daily reassurance phone call to seniors. Each day, enrolled seniors receive a phone call at a requested time between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. If

there is no answer, a second call is automatically placed five minutes later. If there is still no answer or if the individual indicated they are in need of assistance, the sheriff's office will call a designated family member or friend, or in the event a contact is unavailable, local public safety officials will be contacted for a wellness check.

"As sheriff, I see on a daily basis the importance of assisting our police and incredible first responders," McDermott said. "These common-sense public safety measures are cost-effective initiatives that can save lives, and Fallon has been on the front lines for years, and we appreciate their ongoing commitment to the people of Norfolk County and the region."

"Fallon Ambulance is pleased to continue our longstanding partnership with the Norfolk County Sheriff's Office," said Peter Racicot, senior vice president of business development at Fallon Ambulance. "This much-needed program safeguarding those with autism in the event of a road emergency is a great partnership with public safety. Anything that helps our first responders to better assess the most appropriate way to assist a victim or passenger is certainly a welcome tool in providing outstanding patient care in the field. We thank Sheriff McDermott for his leadership making this program a reality and look forward to continued partnership."





**Norfolk Sheriff Jerry McDermott displays an autism awareness seatbelt cover.**