



Louisiana Highway Safety Commission News Release October 26, 2024

LHSC hosts first annual “1 Million Steps 2 Safety” 5K *Free event focused on Pedestrian Safety and Healthy Living*

Baton Rouge – On October 26, 2024, the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission hosted “1 Million Steps 2 Safety,” a free, certified 5K run/walk held at State Police Headquarters located at 7919 Independence Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

Louisiana Surgeon General Ralph Abraham, State Police Superintendent Col. Robert P. Hodges, and Olympian Danielle Scott-Arruda were guest speakers at the event, which featured over 300 participants and a resource fair following the race.

“Pedestrian safety is an important issue, and I’m proud to join the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission to spotlight the issue and honor the lives lost,” Louisiana Surgeon General Ralph Abraham, M.D. said.

The event brought road users together to **celebrate Pedestrian Safety Month**. Participants received a T-shirt for registering and a finisher medal after crossing the finish line at the event.

"Our Troopers witness firsthand the importance of safety precautions by drivers and pedestrians on our roadways," Louisiana State Police Colonel Robert P. Hodges said. "The entire Department of Public Safety family is excited to host the inaugural 1 Million Steps 2 Safety 5K to bring awareness to this important issue."

“Tragically, hundreds of pedestrians were killed or injured in Louisiana last year,” LHSC Executive Director Lisa Freeman said. “This is a chance for us to remind people to take proper safety precautions when out walking.”

October is Pedestrian Safety Month. According to CARTS data, 145 pedestrians were killed in Louisiana crashes in 2023. Pedestrian safety remains a critical issue in our communities, and the 1 Million Steps 2 Safety Run/Walk 5K aimed to highlight the importance of safe walking environments.

Participants contributed to the larger movement of advocating for safer streets and increased pedestrian safety awareness. By carrying the message of pedestrian safety, participants in LHSC’s 1 Million Steps 2 Safety were saving lives.

Resource fair participants included: Baton Rouge Fire Department, Baton Rouge Police Department Recruiting, Beyond the Badge, Destination Zero Deaths, EBR Library, Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal, Louisiana State Police Recruiting, and Southeastern Louisiana Area Health Education Center.



Photo Attribution – Greg Fischer, LHSC

Group (L–R): LHSC Occupant Protection and Diversity Outreach Coordinator Chanita Vazquez; Lt. Col. Mark Oxley (Ret.); SG Ralph Abraham; St. Bernard Parish Sheriff James Pohlmann; LHSC Executive Director Lisa Freeman; Five-time Olympian Danielle Scott-Arruda; Estrella Vazquez; Louisiana State Police Superintendent Col. Robert Hodges; and Louisiana State Troopers Association Executive Director Jay O’Quinn