On behalf of the six police chiefs of Martha’s Vineyard, we want to offer you a warm welcome to our island. We thank you for picking our home as your vacation destination and we ask that you help us with making everyone’s stay here a pleasant one.

Allow us to share some tips that we know will make your visit safer for both our residents and other summer guests:

**ROAD SAFETY**

- The average speed limit on the island is 25-30 mph. Be mindful of these lower speeds, especially on down-island straightaways and when driving on the winding, narrow up-island roads.
- We highly recommend that bike riders of all ages wear a helmet, but it is the law for those under 16 years of age.
- Ride your bike with the flow of traffic, especially in downtown areas (DO NOT ride your bicycle the wrong way on a one-way street). Recreational bikers, especially when riding with children, are encouraged to use bike paths where they are available. Every summer we respond to many serious bicycle accidents. Please help us to reduce these numbers.
- For moped renters, complete all required training and adhere to the provided safety instructions as we have had a number of very serious moped accidents over the years.
- Please take advantage of the Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA) or other ride sharing services as summer traffic is a way of life here. Let’s work together to minimize it.

**ENTERTAINMENT AND ALCOHOL**

- Bars and restaurants close at 1am, though many close earlier. Use a designated driver or call for a cab or ‘ride share’ to get you home if you have had too much to drink.
- All our towns have strictly enforced noise ordinances. Please be respectful to your island neighbors.
- Drinking alcohol in public is illegal in most of our towns.
- Use the refuse containers around the island for your litter and help us to keep our island clean and beautiful. At beaches that have no containers, the policy is “Carry In, Carry Out”.

**ONE MORE THING**

- Be careful how you handle your cell phones as many will dial 911 unintentionally. These accidental emergency calls will require the attention of a police officer. Please answer your cell phone when we call you back.

Again, we welcome you to our island home and encourage you to enjoy it safely and responsibly.

Thank you.