

2004



Holiday Enforcement Project

November 22, 2004 -
January 2, 2005



NJ Office of the Attorney General



New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety

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I. HOLIDAY ENFORCEMENT PROJECT

During the Fall of 2004 the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety decided to undertake a concerted, targeted impaired driving enforcement campaign during the 2004 holiday season. The purpose of the campaign was two-fold, to reduce alcohol-related crashes, injuries, and fatalities during the holiday season, which is traditionally a time of increases in impaired driving, and to pilot a program that will be duplicated on a larger, statewide scale in 2005.

It was decided that the campaign would focus in three counties: Essex, Bergen and Middlesex, which are the top three counties in the state for alcohol-related fatalities.

County and local police agencies in the three counties were contacted and asked to partner with the Division in the You Drink and Drive, You Lose 2004 Holiday Enforcement Project. The agencies were asked to carry out impaired driving roving patrols and checkpoints between the period of November 22, 2004 and January 2, 2005, with a special emphasis on the week of the Thanksgiving Day holiday and the two-week holiday period at the end of December. Letters were sent to all police agencies in the three counties explaining the campaign and reporting forms were provided for the departments to track and submit their activity.

In addition, grant funding was made available to ten police departments in each of the three counties (30 grants total). Each grant was for \$5,000, with a breakdown of 100 hours of enforcement at the flat rate of \$50 per hour. The grant funding was to be utilized by the departments for overtime impaired driving roving patrols and checkpoints.

The police departments that were offered grant funding were selected by the Region Supervisors of the North and Central Regions, respectively. The grants were offered to departments based on one of two criteria: Top grant-funded performance during the 2004 Click It or Ticket seat belt mobilization and top non-funded performance during the 2004 Click It or Ticket seat belt mobilization.

During late October and early November, 2004, contact was made with all police agencies in the three participating counties, urging participation in the campaign in either a funded or non-funded capacity. 30 grant-funded departments ultimately were selected and the agencies received signed Letters of Intent for the program in advance of the November 22, 2004 implementation.

The primary goals of the You Drink and Drive, You Lose 2004 Holiday Enforcement Project, then, were three-fold:

1. To galvanize the law enforcement community in Bergen, Essex and Middlesex counties for maximum participation in the campaign.
2. To raise awareness among the motoring public about the dangers of drinking and driving through high visible enforcement and media activities.
3. To test the feasibility of such a program for possible statewide implementation during the Summer of 2005.

II. Background

Nationally, more than 17,000 people died in impaired driving-related highway crashes during 2003. Every 30 minutes, nearly 50 times a day, someone in America dies in an impaired driving-related crash. Hundreds of thousands more are injured each year.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), about three in every ten Americans will be involved in an impaired driving crash at some point in their lives.

New Jersey's percentage of alcohol-related fatalities is below the national average, but nonetheless impaired driving remains a major source of concern on our roadways.

New Jersey's alcohol-related crash experience

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total fatalities	775	741	726	731	745	771	747
Alcohol-related fatalities	227	201	223	260	250	209	275
% of alcohol-related fatalities	29%	27%	31%	36%	34%	27%	37%

For the year 2000 alone, NHTSA estimates that:

- For one of every 110 miles driven in New Jersey, a person with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) $>.10$ sat behind the wheel.
- An estimated total of 32,940 crashes in New Jersey involved alcohol which killed 319 and injured an estimated 11,200 people.

In addition to the deaths and serious injuries caused by impaired driving, a tremendous economic toll is reaped as well. Again according to NHTSA, alcohol is a factor in 14% of New Jersey's crash costs. Alcohol-related crashes in New Jersey cost the public an estimated \$2.5 billion in 2000, including \$1.1 billion in monetary costs and almost \$1.4 billion in quality of life losses.

The Top Ten New Jersey Counties for Alcohol-related Fatalities 1993-2003

Essex	16	17	26	21	20	20	22	23	23	18	23	229
Middlesex	22	17	14	16	20	13	20	23	23	22	27	217
Bergen	24	17	13	17	22	12	19	11	11	20	24	190
Camden	19	15	12	19	20	13	17	21	21	13	16	186
Burlington	11	21	19	11	14	17	17	17	17	14	19	177
Monmouth	15	8	17	14	21	16	18	18	18	8	15	168
Atlantic	12	15	17	20	17	12	9	17	17	11	17	164
Ocean	19	23	7	11	9	11	10	13	13	7	11	134
Union	17	8	13	11	7	5	11	16	16	13	14	131
Gloucester	6	15	18	11	11	9	6	17	17	8	12	130

III. The Results

The following are highlights of the You Drink and Drive,
You Lose 2004 Holiday Enforcement Project:

- A total of **76** police departments in Bergen, Essex, and Middlesex counties participated in the campaign.
- **284** arrests for Driving While Intoxicated were made during the mobilization period.
- **47** arrests for Refusal to Submit were made during the mobilization period
- **66** summonses for Open Container were made during the mobilization period
- Additional moving and non-moving violation summonses were issued including **2,151** for speed, **1,061** for seat belts, and **68** for child restraints.

A list of participating agencies and their activities is attached.

Municipality	County	DWI	Refusal to submit	Breath Test only	Open Container	Traffic Signal	Speeding	Seat Belt	Child Restraint	Equip.	Other Moving	Other non-moving
Bergen County*	Bergen	2	0	1	3	2	132	19	0	86	44	65
Bergenfield*	Bergen	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	8	1
Garfield*	Bergen	6	1	0	4	0	0	28	0	17	14	25
Hasbrouck Heights*	Bergen	1	1	0	0	1	5		0	4	7	4
Lodi*	Bergen	1	0	0	0	0	16	15	2	33	29	9
Montvale*	Bergen	1	1	0	2	1	4	1	0	6	5	13
Ridgefield Park*	Bergen	10	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	3
Rutherford*	Bergen	1	0	0	0	0	5	15	1	26	12	1
Teaneck*	Bergen	2	1	0	0	1	13	13	2	13	36	14
Tenafly*	Bergen	4	1	3	1	0	2	3	0	1	14	11
sub total		28	11	4	10	9	177	94	5	190	173	146
Belleville*	Essex	2	0	4	3	3	0	9	0	16	11	3
Bloomfield*	Essex	0	0	0	0	14	0	6	0	16	14	16
Caldwell*	Essex	1	0	1	0	1	7	5	0	51	5	10
East Orange*	Essex	2	0	2	0	6	0	10	1	3	21	34
Fairfield*	Essex	1	0	0	1	0	9	3	0	1	23	0
Irvington*	Essex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Livingston*	Essex	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	4	9	0
Montclair*	Essex	0	0	0	0	2	19	17	0	16	74	5
Nutley*	Essex	2	0	0	3	9	9	7	0	7	14	19
South Orange*	Essex	5	0	0	0	9	15	6	0	13	14	12
sub total		13	0	7	7	46	59	66	1	127	185	99
Carteret*	Middlesex	2	0	0	0	2	5	7	0	31	24	14
Cranbury*	Middlesex	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	4	7	5
East Brunswick*	Middlesex	2	0	2	0	2	4	3	0	3	13	10
Jamesburg*	Middlesex	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
New Brunswick*	Middlesex	5	2	3	0	3	3	3	2	10	48	19
Perth Amboy*	Middlesex	6	1	5	3	2	57	8	0	36	37	17
Piscataway*	Middlesex	9	2	0	3	8	1	3	0	18	18	11
Sayerville*	Middlesex	4	1	0	2	1	10	10	0	2	36	27
South Plainfield*	Middlesex	3	0	0	2	1	5	2	0	7	5	33
South River*	Middlesex	3	0	2	2	2	17	2	0	16	8	14
subtotal		37	6	13	12	21	102	38	2	124	189	147
TOTAL		78	17	24	29	76	338	204	9	445	554	397

Municipality	County	DWI	Refusal to submit	Breath Test only	Open Container	Traffic Signal	Speeding	Seat Belt	Child Restraint	Equip.	Other Moving	Other non-moving
Alpine	Bergen	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1
Bogota	Bergen	4	1	3	1	9	6	4	1	4	2	16
Cresskill	Bergen	5	0	5	3	60	41	53	6	82	33	18
Demarest	Bergen	2	0	0	0	15	25	5	2	19	42	14
Elmwood Park	Bergen	2	0	0	0	2	17	4	0	2	28	176
Emerson	Bergen	2	0	2	0	1	12	5	0	15	9	10
Englewood	Bergen	7	2	4	1	14	16	6	6	23	52	65
Englewood Cliffs	Bergen	0	0	0	0	18	25	8	2	8	29	56
Fair Lawn	Bergen	13	2	8	2	27	25	49	2	0	100	212
Fairview	Bergen	13	1	11	1	14	7	12	3	48	82	57
Fort Lee	Bergen	2	0	2	1	4	9	1	0	1	21	3
Franklin Lakes	Bergen	3	1	2	2	0	98	16	0	86	80	0
Glen Rock	Bergen	0	0	0	0	0	6	8	0	12	2	10
Leonia	Bergen	4	2	0	0	1	7	6	0	0	30	8
Mahwah	Bergen	29	5	24	5	26	297	16	1	185	190	147
Maywood	Bergen	3	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	2	5
Midland Park	Bergen	0	0	0	0	2	5	0	3	13	9	23
Montvale	Bergen	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Arlington	Bergen	9	0	9	4	5	15	9	0	7	37	31
Norwood	Bergen	1	0	0	0	0	7	2	0	0	0	0
Old Tappan	Bergen	4	1	3	1	3	14	4	1	14	22	22
Palisades Pky.	Bergen	2	0	0	3	0	645	16	0	0	193	0
Palisades Park	Bergen	8	0	2	0	45	29	73	2	76	164	68
Ridgewood	Bergen	0	0	0	0	1	7	0	0	2	5	7
River Vale	Bergen	4	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	3	2	0
Saddle River	Bergen	3	0	0	0	0	20	7	2	40	10	27
Twp. of Washington	Bergen	0	0	0	1	3	25	13	0	7	10	35
Upper Saddle River	Bergen	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	6	5	2
Waldwick	Bergen	3	0	0	0	0	5	2	0	3	8	4
Wallington	Bergen	3	0	3	1	3	2	0	0	4	46	10
Westwood	Bergen	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	2	1
Woodcliff Lake	Bergen	1	0	1	1	1	4	5	0	15	20	41
Wood-Ridge	Bergen	7	2	2	1	6	6	5	4	3	15	18
Wyckoff	Bergen	0	0	0	0	2	28	9	0	35	22	56
subtotal		136	17	82	28	266	1412	360	35	718	1272	1143

Municipality	County	DWI	Refusal to submit	Breath Test only	Open Container	Traffic Signal	Speeding	Seat Belt	Child Restraint	Equip.	Other Moving	Other non-moving
Ceder Grove	Essex	9	3	0	0	5	48	18	2	62	46	233
Essex Fells	Essex	3	1	2	0	0	0	4	0	15	4	13
Millburn	Essex	3	1	0	0	6	2	2	0	5	73	0
Newark	Essex	5	2	0	1	8	15	363	7	253	310	91
North Caldwell	Essex	2	0	2	0	2	39	3	0	20	8	7
Roseland	Essex	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	2	1	1
West Caldwell	Essex	3	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	2	3
subtotal		26	7	5	1	25	106	390	10	358	444	348
Edison	Middlesex	5	2	0	4	74	91	35	3	81	204	117
Metuchen	Middlesex	14	0	14	0	34	72	39	9	8	110	135
Middlesex Boro	Middlesex	7	1	6	1	6	59	5	2	75	20	84
Plainsboro Twp.	Middlesex	7	1	0	1	0	4	1	0	1	68	
Spotswood	Middlesex	4	1	0	0	3	18	7	0	5	39	83
Woodbridge	Middlesex	7	1	5	2	21	51	20	0	32	215	18
subtotal		44	6	25	8	138	295	107	14	202	594	445
TOTAL		206	30	112	37	429	1813	857	59	1278	2310	1936
GRAND TOTAL		284	47	136	66	505	2151	1061	68	1723	2864	2333

* Funded campaigns

Participation by County:

Police Departments

Bergen	63%	44 participants	36 non-participants
Essex	70%	16 participants	7 non-participants
Middlesex	62%	16 participants	10 non-participants

Results of the You Drink and Drive, You Lose 2004 Holiday Enforcement Project:

	DWI Arrests	Refusal to Submit	Breath Test Only	Open Container	Traffic Signal	Speed	Seat Belt	Child Seat	Equipment	Other
Total	284	47	136	66	505	2,151	1,061	68	1,723	5,197

It is important to note that during the same time period of the You Drink and Drive, You Lose 2004 Holiday Enforcement Project, the County of Bergen Office of Highway Safety carried out its annual “Sabers and Roses” impaired driving enforcement campaign. 37 police agencies in Bergen County participated in that program, resulting in 49 additional DWI arrests, 171 speeding summonses, and 690 total summonses issued.

In addition to the efforts in Bergen, Essex, and Middlesex counties the You Drink and Drive, You Lose 2004 Holiday Enforcement Project was supported in two other counties: Passaic and Morris.

The Passaic County DWI Task Force conducted a county-wide impaired driving enforcement campaign on the evening of November 29, 2004. 15 of the 17 police agencies in Passaic County took part in the program, resulting in 9 DWI arrests, 96 other summonses, and 13 vehicle impounds.

The Morris County Prosecutors Office, in cooperation with the Township of Randolph Police Department, staged a DWI checkpoint on Route 10 in Randolph on the evening of December 11, 2004. Results from this checkpoint included 1 DWI arrests, 2 warrant arrest, and 2 CDS possession arrests.

IV. Media Outreach



In addition to the enforcement activities, concerted efforts were made to educate the public about the campaign and about the inherent dangers of drinking and driving.

In cooperation with New Jersey State Police, a news conference was held on November 23, 2004 at the New Jersey State Police Troop D Headquarters on the New Jersey Turnpike. A primary focus of the event was the You Drink and Drive, You Lose 2004 Holiday Enforcement Project. Details on the campaign were contained within the new release distributed at the event.

Participating police agencies were also provided a sample press release. Many of the departments issued news releases on the program to their local newspapers, resulting in printed stories, some of which are attached.

Also, the Tri-State Media Partners prominently featured the campaign in the annual “3-D Month” news release that the agency released regionally in December. The Tri-State partners also staged alcohol enforcement events in New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut on the evening of December 17, 2004. During the December 17 event News12-NJ rode along with the East Orange Police Department during an impaired driving enforcement patrol while WNBC-TV 4 conducted a similar ride-along with the Belleville Township Police Department.



Police enlist in holiday initiative

BY PATRICIA W. STINSON
Of Suburbanite

The Police Department has received unspecified additional funds to increase the search for possible drunk drivers during the holiday season from Nov. 23 to Jan. 2.

Tenafly is among number of towns receiving "You Drink & Drive, You Lose" 2004 Holiday Enforcement grant from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration.

Bergen, Essex and Middlesex counties have the highest inci-

dences of drunken driving in New Jersey.

Tenafly police will establish sobriety checkpoints and also additional roving patrols. While the specific amount of the grant is not determined, the funds will pay for overtime salaries at the holiday rate.

Chief Michael Bruno said the goal of this program is to raise awareness about the danger of drinking and driving through high visibility enforcement and to arrest motorists who choose to drive while impaired by drugs or alcohol.

According to the N.J. Division of

Highway Traffic Safety, impaired drivers kill nearly 18,000 people on U.S. roads each year. In New Jersey 30 percent of motor vehicle fatalities are alcohol related.

New Jersey's drunk driving laws can result in jail time, fines and suspensions of driving license. In the case of sobriety checkpoints, the police may legally seize a vehicle being operated by a drunk driver.

According to Attorney Gregory Marootian in Livingston, there are possibly 30,000 DWI charges filed each year.

Anyone convicted of a blood alcohol level above .08 percent

may be fined \$250 to \$400, possible incarceration at the Intoxicated Driver Resource Center, loss of license for up to three months, an annual \$1,000 surcharge for three years and also many related fines. Related fines include \$200 for the DWI Enforcement Fund, \$50 violent crime compensation board fund, \$75 safe neighborhood fund, \$200 for New Jersey motor vehicle license restoration charges and \$150 for intoxicated driver resource center (IDRC) plus court costs and attorney fees. The financial costs may range from \$4,000 to \$6,000 for a single first time

offense.

Someone found guilty on a first time DWI charge with more than .08 percent blood alcohol level or under the influence of drugs may be charged with higher fines and possible imprisonment.

According to the NJDHTS website, there is an additional disorderly person charge against any guilty drunk driver who also has a passenger in the car under 17-years-old. There are also penalties for refusing to take a breath test, driving with an open container of an alcoholic beverage and extra fines involving driving within a school zone.

Second time DWI offenders face up to a \$1,000 in fine, 30 days of community service and possible two-year drivers license suspension, plus an expensive assortment of fines and charges.

The Tenafly police offered the following advice: Be responsible and don't risk drinking and driving.

You will be caught. If you plan to drink, choose a designated driver before going out.

And most importantly Buckle Up! It's the best defense against an impaired driver.

Patricia Stinson's e-mail address is stinson@northjersey.com

11/25/04

www.montclairtimes.com THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

Police prepare for drunk driving crackdown

By ALICIA ZADROZNY
of *The Montclair Times*

Drunk driving is always a bad idea, especially during this holiday season when Montclair Police will be on the lookout for motorists who have hit the rum punch too hard before getting on the road.

Sgt. John Keane, commander of the township Traffic/Accident Bureau, is making use of a \$5,000 state grant to step up the enforcement of drunk driving. The money will pay the overtime salaries of 10 officers to work in shifts during two weeks of the holiday season, from Nov. 22 to Nov. 28 and Dec. 20 to Jan. 2.

During the last holiday season, officers cited five motorists with driving while intoxicated. According to the N.J. Division of Highway Traffic Safety, 39 percent of motor vehicle fatalities in the state are alcohol-related. Keane said Mont-

clair officers are serious about preventing similar occurrences in the town.

"It's like anything else. You take the chance and you're going to get caught," Keane said. "That's why they have stepped up the patrols."

Information provided from the "You Drink and Drive, You Lose, 2004 Holiday Enforcement Project" offers a list to minimize drunk-driving risks on the roads:

- Be responsible and don't risk it...you will be caught.
- Choose a designated driver before going out.
- If intoxicated, take mass transit, a taxicab, or request a ride from a sober driver.
- Spend the night where the activity is held.
- Report impaired drivers to the police.
- A buckled seatbelt is the best defense against another impaired driver.



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Police briefs for 11.23.04

Published in the Home News Tribune 11/23/04

Middlesex County

TEN police departments in Middlesex County will be scanning the roads for drunken drivers under a state program aimed to keep or take those drivers off the road.

South River, South Plainfield, South Amboy, Sayreville, Piscataway, Perth Amboy, New Brunswick, East Brunswick, Cranbury and Carteret are taking part in the program, "You Drink and Drive, You Lose 2004 Holiday Enforcement Program." Bob Gaydosh, spokesman for the state Division of Highway Traffic Safety, said the division has awarded a \$5,000 grant to each department for roving patrols and checkpoints. Departments that have not been awarded grants will be ramping up their own programs to battle drunken driving, Gaydosh said.

The program runs through Jan. 2, but the division is urging municipalities that received grants to focus on this week and the two weeks leading up to the Jan. 1 weekend, Gaydosh said.

-- Staff report

Perth Amboy cops to check drivers

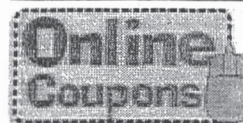
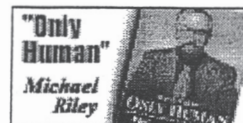
PERTH AMBOY: Perth Amboy police will be checking for impaired drivers as part of the "You Drink and Drive, You Lose 2004 Holiday Enforcement Project."

The holiday season is traditionally a time of social gatherings, often involving drinking alcohol. The program is intended to raise awareness about the dangers of drinking and driving through high-visibility enforcement and to arrest motorists who choose to drive while impaired by drugs or alcohol.

Impaired drivers kill nearly 18,000 people each year. In New Jersey, 39 percent of motor vehicle fatalities are alcohol related.

Law enforcement agencies participating in the "You Drink and Drive, You Lose 2004 Holiday Enforcement Project" offer the following suggestion: Be responsible and don't take risks. For those who drink, choose a designated driver before going out, take mass transit, a taxicab or ask a sober friend to drive you home, spend the night where the activity is held, report impaired drivers to law enforcement and wear seat belt.

-- Staff report



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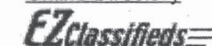
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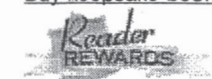
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Everything Jersey

Healy praises anti drunk-driving campaign

Monday, December 06, 2004

By Michaelangelo Conte
Journal staff writer

Jersey City police launched a holiday driving safety campaign last week targeting aggressive drivers and drivers under the influence of alcohol or drugs, using funding from driving safety grants, officials said.

"The purpose of the campaign is to encourage people to drive safely and not to drink and drive during the holiday season," Mayor Jerramiah Healy said.

Jersey City Police Chief Robert Troy said his department will target highway outlets and streets leading into Jersey City from Bayonne, Union City and Hoboken to crack down on dangerous drivers during the holidays.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration statistics show that impaired drivers kill 18,000 people nationally each year. In New Jersey, 39 percent of motor vehicle fatalities are alcohol related.

The NHTSA also reports that nearly 97 percent of Americans view drinking and driving by others as a threat to their families and themselves.

"The holiday season is a time for celebration, not tragedy," said Roberto Rodriguez, director of the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety.

"The law enforcement community of the state is committed to eradicating impaired driving from our roads," Rodriguez continued. "Police officers will also pay special attention to shopping areas to ensure that drivers adhere to stop and yield signs, observe traffic signals and yield to pedestrians in crosswalks."

Jersey City police recommend residents follow the Automobile Association of America's "Safe Walking Tips" to help keep their holidays safe:

Cross at crosswalks and keep to the right in the crosswalk.

Before crossing, look all ways

Cross only on the proper signal

Avoid crossing between parked cars

The holiday driver safety program in Jersey City is being funded by grants from the Division of Highway Traffic Safety, the Jersey City Pedestrian Safety Program and the Jersey City Drunk Driving Program.

V. Conclusions

In reflecting back on the three primary goals of the campaign, it seems safe to conclude that the You Drink and Drive, You Lose 2004 Holiday Enforcement Project successfully met its objectives.

1. To galvanize the law enforcement community in Bergen, Essex and Middlesex counties for maximum participation in the campaign.

Participation in the campaign was strong. A total of 76 police agencies took part in the effort and returned a reporting form to the Division. Involvement included agencies that received grant funding as well as many that did not.

2. To raise awareness among the motoring public about the dangers of drinking and driving through high visible enforcement and media activities.

In programs such as this, awareness among the motoring public is raised in two ways, through visible enforcement as well as through media outreach and coverage. The strong participation by the police agencies in the three counties clearly resulted in a greatly increased impaired driving enforcement presence during the critical holiday period, which could not possibly have gone unnoticed by motorists. From the standpoint of media coverage, the campaign was mentioned in numerous newspaper, radio, and television reports, further reinforcing this important message.

3. To test the feasibility of such a program for possible statewide implementation during the Summer of 2005.

The results of the campaign in the three counties seems to indicate that a program such as this would work on a larger, statewide level. Grants directly to local police departments that are of a uniform size and scope can be managed more easily by NJDHTS staff than block grants to counties. No major objections or problems were noted by participating agencies in the three counties. This ease of operation, coupled with the success of the most recent statewide mobilization (Click It or Ticket 2004), shows that a statewide Your Drink and Drive, You Lose Campaign in 2005 is feasible and in fact shows strong likelihood of success.

News



New Jersey
Office of the Attorney General

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
Peter C. Harvey, Attorney General



DIVISION OF

New Jersey State Police

Colonel Rick Fuentes, Superintendent

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Public Information Office (609) 882-2000

A/Lt. Kevin Rehmann X 6515

A/Sgt. Stephen Jones X 6513

Robert Gaydosh, DHTS (609) 633-9022

FOR RELEASE ON:

November 23, 2004

Aggressive/Impaired Drivers Target of Police Crackdown

Cranbury, N.J. –State officials today announced this year’s holiday traffic safety program to target aggressive and impaired drivers. Initiatives include NJDOT funding for the State Police aggressive driving patrols, technology-based crash intervention and a federal grant to municipal departments for DWI enforcement. There was an emphasis on redeploying unmarked patrol cars to combat aggressive driving behaviors and representatives of the media were given rides in these vehicles to observe driving conditions from the perspective of the trooper.

Through a \$2.4 million NJDOT grant, the State Police will be able to substantially strengthen their aggressive driver program. Fourteen existing vehicles will be retrofitted with upgraded emergency lighting for use as unmarked troop cars. With the exception of toll roads, the State Police have not deployed unmarked cars on patrol for several years. In addition, the funds will used to put more troopers on patrol in areas plagued with high numbers of accidents.

“With the beginning of the holiday season and its focus on friends and family, we are urging all motorists to drive safely,” said Acting Governor Richard J. Codey. “Those who don’t get the message will face the consequences of increased traffic enforcement from State Police and our local law enforcement partners, who will be taking a hard line against aggressive and drug- or alcohol-impaired drivers.”

Based on maps overlaid with computerized accident data, documented locations for speed violators, and aggressive driver calls, State Police have targeted specific locations on major roadways throughout the state for these extra patrols. Troopers will target critical areas of Rt. 78, Rt. 287, Rt. 80, Rt. 195, Rt. 295 and Rt. 55.

“Technology has shown us where accidents most often occur,” said Attorney General Harvey at a press conference at the State Police Troop D Headquarters on the New Jersey Turnpike. “We are now placing extra troopers where they will have the greatest impact on bad driving behaviors, thereby preventing accidents and saving lives during this holiday season.”

-more-

Thanksgiving release – continued

“The objective for our aggressive driver patrols is not to give tickets,” said Lt. Colonel Juan Mattos, Deputy Superintendent of Operations. “We know through research and by our own experience that the mere sight of an unmarked troop car pulling over a motorist will curb aggressive driving behavior for miles. Our objective is to reduce accidents, injuries and deaths through smart enforcement.” Mattos added, “To put this in holiday vernacular: We all know that aggressive drivers are real turkeys, so I’m sending my troopers out on a turkey hunt.”

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that about one-third of traffic crashes and about two-thirds of the resulting fatalities can be attributed to driving behavior commonly associated with aggressive driving. These include improper lane change, improper passing, following too closely and speeding.

Thanksgiving is traditionally the heaviest travel holiday with millions of extra motorists taking to the highways. The New Jersey Turnpike is estimating almost four million vehicles to travel the road over the six-day Thanksgiving period from Wednesday, November 24 through Monday, November 29. During that same period, the Garden State Parkway estimates that more than 6.6 million drivers will travel their road. Wednesday will be the most heavily traveled day, with the highest volume between 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Statewide accident data shows that 592 people have died in crashes so far this year. While this number represents a tragic loss, it is 9.3% lower than 2003 fatalities for the same period, and 2003 was about 10% below 2002 numbers.

In addition, Attorney General Harvey announced that the State was also cracking down on impaired drivers. Through a grant from the Division of Highway Traffic Safety, police agencies in Bergen, Essex and Middlesex counties were participating in an impaired driving enforcement program. According to data from 2001-2003, alcohol was a factor in 37 percent of motor vehicle fatalities in the state. An average of 280 motorists are killed each year in New Jersey alcohol-related crashes. Ten police departments in each county have been awarded money for impaired driver checkpoints and roving patrols through January 2, 2005. Bergen, Essex and Middlesex ranked the highest for alcohol-related fatalities.

The *You Drink and Drive, You Lose 2004* Holiday Enforcement Campaign is the latest salvo in the state’s ongoing effort to rid New Jersey’s roadways of drug and alcohol impaired drivers. “Motorists who choose to get behind the wheel after using alcohol or illegal drugs are a tremendous scourge on our highways,” said Roberto Rodriguez, Director of the Division of Highway Traffic Safety. “The law enforcement community of the state is committed to arresting impaired drivers and ensuring that the holiday season remains a time of joy rather than a time of sorrow.”

Police will also be ticketing drivers and passengers for seat belt violations. New Jersey’s “primary violation” seat belt law allows officers to stop drivers who are not wearing their seat belts without any other violation. Statistics have repeatedly proven the effectiveness of the simple safety harness. Although the state’s compliance rate is approximately 82 percent, the remaining 18 percent of motorists who don’t wear seat belts account for almost two-thirds of highway crash deaths. Many of these fatalities are due to people being ejected from vehicles as they overturn. The vast majority of these overturned vehicles retain plenty of “room to live” within the passenger compartment. The law requires all front seat occupants and all children up to 18 years in the rear seats to be buckled up. Children up through eight years old and up to 80 pounds must be properly secured in a child safety seat.

Thanksgiving release – continued

Colonel Rick Fuentes, Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police advises all people traveling during this holiday season to follow some common sense guidelines to help make their trips safe.

- Leave a little early to avoid frustrations if you hit traffic delays
- Get enough rest before you drive. Pull into a rest area to nap if you need to
- Check your vehicle's tires, lamps and wipers to ensure they are serviceable
- Make sure you have the basic safety items such as a jack and a good spare tire, flashlight and reflectors
- Leave a safe distance between your vehicle and the one in front of you
- Obey all traffic laws

The Following towns received grants for DWI enforcement:

Bergen County :

Bergen County Police Department

Bergenfield

Garfield

Hasbrouck Heights

Lodi

(Montvale) TBD

Ridgefield Park

Rutherford

Teaneck

Tenafly

Alcohol-related fatalities (2001-2003):

Middlesex County 72

Essex County 64

Bergen County 55

Essex:

Belleville

Bloomfield

Caldwell

East Orange

Fairfield

Irvington

Livingston

Montclair

Nutley

South Orange

Piscataway

Sayreville

South Amboy

South Plainfield

South River

Middlesex:

Carteret

Cranbury

East Brunswick

New Brunswick

Perth Amboy



Peter C. Harvey, *Attorney General*

Division of Highway Traffic Safety

Roberto Rodriguez, *Director*

For Immediate Release:

November 23, 2004

For Further Information Contact:

Bob Gaydosh (609) 633-9022

**Law Enforcement Agencies in Three Counties to
Target Impaired Drivers during the Holiday Season**

(Trenton) - Police agencies in Bergen, Essex, and Middlesex counties are cracking down on dangerous impaired drivers beginning today and continuing through the December holiday season, with the support of grant funding from the Division of Highway Traffic Safety. The *You Drink and Drive, You Lose 2004 Holiday Enforcement Campaign* is the latest salvo in the state's ongoing effort to rid New Jersey's roadways of drug and alcohol impaired drivers.

"Motorists who choose to get behind the wheel after using alcohol or illegal drugs are a tremendous scourge on our highways," said Attorney General Peter C. Harvey. "The law enforcement community of the state is committed to arresting impaired drivers and ensuring that the holiday season remains a time of joy rather than a time of sorrow."

For the years 2001-2003, alcohol was a factor in 37-percent of motor vehicle fatalities in the state. An average of 280 motorists each year are killed in New Jersey in alcohol-related crashes. Bergen, Essex, and Middlesex counties were chosen to participate in this program because they are the top three counties in the state for alcohol-related fatalities.

The Division has awarded grant funding to ten police departments in each of the three counties. The grant funding will be used to conduct impaired driving checkpoints and roving patrols through January 2, 2005. Other police agencies in the three counties are conducting impaired driving enforcement efforts without the assistance of grants.

"New Jersey's rate of alcohol fatalities is several points below the national average," said Roberto Rodriguez, Director of the Division of Highway Traffic Safety. "However, we are not satisfied and we will continue doing everything in our power to eliminate impaired driving and set the example for the rest of the nation."

(More)

**New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety
You Drink and Drive, You Lose Holiday 2004
Enforcement Grants:**

Bergen:

Bergen County Police Department
Bergenfield
Garfield
Hasbrouck Heights
Lodi
Montvale
Ridgefield Park
Rutherford
Teaneck
Tenafly

**Alcohol-related fatalities
(2001-2003):**
Middlesex County 72
Essex County 64
Bergen County 55

Essex:

Belleville
Bloomfield
Caldwell
East Orange
Fairfield
Irvington
Livingston
Montclair
Nutley
South Orange

Middlesex:

Carteret
Cranbury
East Brunswick
New Brunswick
Perth Amboy
Piscataway
Sayreville
South Amboy
South Plainfield
South River

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News



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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Public Information Office (609) 882-2000

Capt. Al Della Fave Ext. 6514

SFC Kevin Rehmann Ext. 6515

SFC. Gerald Lewis Ext. 6516

Tpr. Stephen Jones Ext. 6513

FOR RELEASE ON:

November 22, 2004

MEDIA ADVISORY

WHAT

State Police are launching a new aggressive driver enforcement program for the Holiday driving season utilizing unmarked patrol vehicles, funded by a \$2.4 grant from NJ DOT. In addition, a grant from NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety will fund DWI enforcement patrols in Middlesex, Bergen and Essex counties.

WHEN

Tuesday November 23, 2004 11:00 a.m.

WHERE

New Jersey State Police Troop 'D' Headquarters
Located at the south end of the Molly Pitcher Service area
Between exits 8 and 8A, mp 71 south.

WHO

Attorney General Peter Harvey
LTC Juan Mattos, NJ State Police
Chief John Pieczynski, Carteret Police Department
Violet Marrero, NJDHTS
Jeff Callahan, NJ DOT
Pam Maiolo, AAA of New Jersey

VISUALS

Unmarked State Police vehicles on display and available for reporters/photographers to observe Turnpike traffic in a ride-along.

Contact: David Reich
Reich Communications, Inc.
(212) 573-6000
david@reichcommunications.com



POLICE PLAN HEAVY DWI ENFORCEMENT DRIVE TO AVERT HOLIDAY TRAGEDIES ON AREA ROADS

**Police will have checkpoints throughout metro area;
Driving with “holiday cheer” can lead to arrest,
higher insurance rates, injury or death**

TRENTON, N.J., December 14, 2004 -- An aggressive enforcement campaign to find and arrest motorists who are driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs begins this weekend. Police agencies throughout the tri-state area will be out in force, patrolling in cars and with DWI checkpoints, as the holiday season gets into full swing.

“While this is the most festive time of the year, it is also one of the most dangerous times on our roads and highways,” said Thomas Louizou, regional administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). “More than 115 people are killed in traffic crashes every day, with more than 40 percent of those deaths due to alcohol-related crashes. Statistics tell us that driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs traditionally peaks at this time of year, accounting for nearly half of all crashes as people celebrate at holiday parties and family gatherings.”

So great is the potential for disaster that NHTSA, in conjunction with enforcement agencies nationwide, has designated December as National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month.

“The most obvious and dramatic impact of DWI is, of course, serious injury or death,” Louizou noted. “But even without being involved in a crash, a drunk or drugged driver risks major penalties and inconvenience if arrested and convicted.”

One estimate by traffic safety officials puts the cost to a driver arrested for DWI in the tri-state area as high as \$8,250 or more. “The DWI fine is often just the beginning of a series of expenses, ranging from court and attorney’s fees to increased insurance premiums for as long as three years,” Louizou said.

In New Jersey, the Division of Highway Traffic Safety has funded impaired driving enforcement grants to municipal police departments in three counties (Bergen, Essex and Middlesex) to ensure that extra patrols are in place during the holiday season.

Roberto Rodriguez, the Director of the Division, offers a few simple ways to avoid having tragedy mar the holidays.

- If you plan to drive, don't drink or take any drugs. Choose a sober designated driver before holiday celebrating begins.
- Report impaired or aggressive drivers to police officers.
- Always be sure all vehicle occupants are using safety belts.

"The safety belt continues to be the single most effective way to save lives and prevent injuries in the event of a crash," Rodriguez said. "Almost 60 percent of the people killed in automobile crashes last year were not wearing safety belts. Clicking your seat belt is such a quick, easy and effective thing to do to help save your life and the lives of friends and family."

* * *

12/04 nj

Proclamation/Resolution
Supporting the *You Drink and Drive, You Lose 2004 Holiday Enforcement Project*

Whereas, impaired drivers on our nation's roads kill someone every 30 minutes, 50 people per day, and almost 18,000 people each year; and

Whereas, 39% of motor vehicle fatalities in New Jersey are alcohol-related; and

Whereas, Essex, Middlesex, and Bergen counties are the top three counties in the state for alcohol-related fatalities; and

Whereas, the holiday season is traditionally a time of social gatherings which often include alcohol; and

Whereas, the State of New Jersey, Division of Highway Traffic Safety, has asked law enforcement agencies in Essex, Middlesex, and Bergen counties to participate in the *You Drink and Drive, You Lose 2004 Holiday Enforcement Project*; and

Whereas, the project will involve increased impaired driving enforcement from November 22, 2004 – January 2, 2005; and

Whereas, an increase in impaired driving enforcement and a reduction in impaired driving will save lives on our roadways;

Therefore, be is resolved that _____ declares it's support for the *You Drink and Drive, You Lose 2004 Holiday Enforcement Project* from November 22, 2004 – January 2, 2005 and pledges to increase awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving.

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(Your agency letterhead here)

News Release

For Immediate Release

Date:

Contact: (from your agency)

Phone number: (from your agency)

Impaired Driving Enforcement Crackdown to be
Conducted Locally during the Holiday Season in
Three New Jersey Counties

From November 22, 2004 – January 2, 2005, law enforcement officers from Bergen, Essex, and Middlesex counties will be stepping up impaired driving enforcement as part of the *You Drink and Drive, You Lose 2004 Holiday Enforcement Project*.

The holiday season is traditionally a time of social gatherings, which often include alcohol. The goal of the program is to raise awareness about the dangers of drinking and driving through high-visibility enforcement, and to arrest motorists who choose to drive while impaired by drugs or alcohol.

Impaired drivers kill nearly 18,000 people on our nation's roads each year. In New Jersey, 39% of motor vehicle fatalities are alcohol-related. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that nearly 97 percent of Americans view drinking and driving by others as a threat to their families and themselves. Indeed, Americans support tougher enforcement and rank drunk driving ahead of healthcare, poverty, the environment and gun control as an important social issue.

Law enforcement agencies participating in the *You Drink and Drive, You Lose 2004 Holiday Enforcement Project* offer the following advice:

- Be responsible and don't risk it ... you will be caught.
- If you plan to drink, choose a designated driver before going out.
- Take mass transit, a taxicab, or ask a sober friend to drive you home.
- Spend the night where the activity is held.
- Report impaired drivers to law enforcement.
- Always buckle up – it's your best defense against an impaired driver.

"The holiday season is a time for celebration, not tragedy," said Roberto Rodriguez, Director of the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety. "The law enforcement community of the state is committed to eradicating impaired driving from our roads."

#####

*We would like to thank
the following police departments for
their efforts and participation.*

County

BERGEN

Alpine
Bogota
Cresskill
Demarest
Elmwood Park
Emerson
Englewood
Englewood Cliffs
Fair Lawn
Fairview
Fort Lee
Franklin Lakes
Glen Rock
Leonia
Mahwah
Maywood
Midland Park
Montvale
North Arlington
Norwood
Old Tappan
Palisades Pky.
Palisades Park

Ridgewood
River Vale
Saddle River
Twp. of Washington
Upper Saddle River
Waldwick
Wallington
Westwood
Woodcliff Lake
Wood-Ridge
Wyckof

Bergen County*
Bergenfield*
Garfield*
Hasbrouck Heights*
Lodi*
Montvale*
Ridgefield Park*
Rutherford*
Teaneck*
Tenafly*

ESSEX

Ceder Grove
Essex Fells
Millburn
Newark
North Caldwell
Roseland
West Caldwell

Belleville*
Bloomfield*
Caldwell*
East Orange*
Fairfield*
Irvington*
Livingston*
Montclair*
Nutley*
South Orange*

MIDDLESEX

Edison
Metuchen
Middlesex Boro
Plainsboro Twp.
Spotswood
Woodbridge

Carteret*
Cranbury*
East Brunswick*
Jamesburg*
New Brunswick*
Perth Amboy*
Piscataway*
Sayerville*
South Plainfield*
South River*



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