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Dexter PD Join National Youth Alcohol Enforcement Campaign

APRIL 21ST 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Dexter Police Department's Youth Alcohol Enforcement Campaign Joins National Crackdown To Reduce Drunk Driving Fatalities

'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over' Campaign Will Target Substance-Impaired Drivers.

Dexter, Missouri - Local and state law enforcement will be out in full force as part of the annual nationwide May/Youth Alcohol Enforcement Crackdown "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" substance-impaired driving crackdown. The crackdown, which will include high-visibility enforcement Dexter, will run from **May 5-16, 2016**.

The effective nationwide substance-impaired driving crackdown will include high-visibility enforcement, high-profile events, and will be supported by national paid advertising, creating a comprehensive campaign to curb substance-impaired driving during the enforcement period.

Dexter Police said its **Officers** will be aggressively looking for substance-impaired drivers during the crackdown and will arrest anyone caught driving impaired.

Although it is illegal in all 50 States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to drive impaired (having a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher), far too many people across the nation get behind the wheel after consuming alcohol or other illegal drugs. The latest statistics from the National Highway

Traffic Safety Administration underscore the serious nature of the nation's continuing drunk driving epidemic.

"Every year, about one third of all motor vehicle traffic deaths involve one or more substance-impaired drivers or motorcycle operators," said **Lieutenant Benton**. "In 2015, 178 people were killed and 605 seriously injured on Missouri's roadways in crashes that involved at least one substance-impaired driver." That works out to approximately one substance-impaired driver involved fatality every (2) two days.

Lieutenant Benton added the St. Patrick's Day holiday is particularly dangerous. During the Youth Alcohol Enforcement Campaign May 1-12, 2015, four (4) people were killed and eighteen (18) seriously injured involving at least one substance-impaired driver that was under 21 years of age.

Research has shown that high-visibility enforcement like the 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over' campaign reduces substance-impaired driving fatalities by as much as 20 percent. By joining this nationwide effort, we will make [Local Area]'s roadways safer for everyone throughout the holiday," said **Lieutenant Benton**.

"We want to remind everyone that getting behind the wheel impaired is a terrible idea. Unfortunately, not only does being under the influence impair your ability to operate a vehicle safely, it also impairs your judgment and good sense about whether you can, or should drive. If you have any doubt about your sobriety, do not get behind the wheel. If you do chose to drive impaired, you will be arrested. No warnings. No excuses," **Lieutenant Benton** said.

Lieutenant Benton noted that being arrested for driving under the influence of any substance brings a wide range of negative consequences into one's life. Substance-impaired drivers face jail time, loss of their driver licenses, and steep financial consequences such as higher insurance rates, attorney fees, court costs, lost time at work, and the potential loss of their job. When family, friends and co-workers find out, violators also often face tremendous personal embarrassment.

"Driving while impaired is simply not worth the risk. So don't take the chance. Remember, we will be out in force and we will be watching, so 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over,'" said **Lieutenant Benton**.

For more information, visit the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" Campaign Headquarters at

LAST UPDATED ON APRIL 21ST 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

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