

News Release

Name, xxx-xxx-xxxx, name@email.com

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Date

**Law Enforcement Operations Aim to Reduce Impaired Driving**

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Dateline — Communities continue to grapple with the horrible aftermath of impaired driving. In [insert county], [xx] people were killed in impaired driving crashes in [insert year] and, nationally, more than 10,000 lives are lost to impaired driving each year, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

In surveys of those arrested for impaired driving, half of those arrested report they had their last drink at a bar or other licensed alcohol establishment, while half report drinking at home or at a house party. All too often, bars and restaurants continue to serve patrons long after they show obvious signs of intoxication.

Nearly every state and the District of Columbia prohibit selling alcohol to an obviously intoxicated person. Although these laws are on the books, alcohol establishments and their staffs largely ignore them. Now, in a joint enforcement effort, state and local law enforcement agencies are teaming together to go after the worst offenders – the bars and alcohol establishments that serve intoxicated patrons, and contribute to a potential public safety threat. Operations are being conducted this weekend [insert dates] in [communities].

“When we know where people are drinking and then driving, law enforcement agencies can target those individuals and establishments that contribute to the problem of alcohol-impaired driving,” said [law enforcement person] “This also includes providing alcohol to minors or over serving patrons.”

Through information collected from DUI arrest reports, alcohol law enforcement agencies have valuable information on where those arrested consumed their last drink. Called “place of last drink,” the data collected is an investigative tool for law enforcement to track and monitor bars and other alcohol serving establishments that could pose a problem. In turn, law enforcement can monitor and conduct undercover operations on those establishments reported more frequently on DUI arrest reports.

The National Liquor Law Enforcement Association, along with the National Transportation Safety Board, recommends that state alcohol law enforcement agencies collect place of last drink data as a strategy to prevent impaired driving. With the ultimate goal of reducing impaired driving and alcohol-related traffic

crashes, state alcohol law enforcement agencies work alongside local law enforcement to identify the establishments that have the highest number of reports and pose the highest risk to public safety.

For more information on this law enforcement effort, please contact [insert contact name] at [insert email or phone].

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