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Lowell Police to Deter Drunk Driving by Participating in Statewide ‘Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over’ Mobilization

If you’re enjoying the holidays with a drink, the Lowell Police Department (LPD) has a message for you: Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over. Due to the increase in drunk-driving-related fatalities around the holidays each year, the LPD will join the 202 local law enforcement agencies and the Massachusetts State Police running extra patrols through the New Year as part of the national Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over mobilization. This campaign is funded by a federal grant administered through the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security’s Highway Safety Division (EOPSS/HSD).

The National Center for Statistics and Analysis of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that in 2014 in Massachusetts, 133 people were killed in crashes that involved drivers with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher. Nationally, in December of 2013, there were 733 people killed in crashes involving at least one driver with a BAC of .08 or higher, and 23 of those deaths occurred on Christmas Day.

Getting caught drunk behind the wheel is no small matter; you face jail time, fines, loss of driver’s license, towing fees, and other OUI expenses, totaling \$10,000 on average. The cost of cab fare is nothing compared to a \$10,000 OUI, the inconvenience of spending the holidays behind bars, or the cost of someone’s life.

LPD Superintendent of Police William Taylor encourages everyone to enjoy the holidays responsibly, saying “We hope everyone has a great holiday season celebrating with family and friends. To help prevent needless tragedy, it is imperative that everyone refrain from driving if you’ve been drinking. Death and injury resulting from drunk driving are extremely tragic and are 100% preventable. That’s why the LPD participates in this mobilization every year. If you drive drunk this holiday season, you can expect to be caught and arrested by one of the many police departments participating in this initiative.” The LPD also reminds motorists that wearing a safety belt is your best defense against drunk and aggressive drivers and your own mistakes.