



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### **Howard County Police to Conduct Sobriety Checkpoint** *Part of Several Safe Driving Initiatives this Holiday Season*

The Howard County Police Department's Traffic Enforcement Section is working on several initiatives this holiday season to help keep citizens safe—and sober—on the roads. December is national "3D Month," which is intended to combat drunk and drugged driving throughout the country.

The department is also partnering this month with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for the annual "Tie One on for Safety" campaign. The campaign encourages motorists to tie a red ribbon to their vehicles as a pledge to drive safe and sober, and to always buckle up while in a vehicle during the holiday season. Howard County officers are helping distribute the ribbons with informational brochures about the dangers of drinking and driving.

Earlier this month, the police department held a sobriety checkpoint that resulted in the arrests of 10 drivers for driving under the influence.

Police will have extra saturation patrols targeting impaired driving violations, speed enforcement and aggressive driving throughout the holidays and New Year. As always, the alcohol enforcement unit will continue to patrol for underage drinking and underage impaired driving.

The holiday period between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve is one of the busiest on the nation's roads, with a high incidence of alcohol-related traffic fatalities. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), each holiday season more than 2,000 people are killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes and/or crashes where safety belts were not used.

Through all of these December programs, the Howard County Police Department hopes to help the county's citizens have a safe and happy holiday season.

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