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News Release

August 17, 2015

St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office Will Be Out in Full Force to Catch Drunk Drivers *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*

As summer winds down, the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office is ramping up its enforcement efforts as part of a national crackdown on drunk driving. The 20-day, high-visibility campaign, *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*, is a partnership with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to curb impaired driving and save lives. **August 21-September 7 (Labor Day)**, law enforcement partners nationwide will show zero tolerance for drunk driving. Increased state and national messaging about the dangers of driving drunk, coupled with checkpoints and increased officers on the road, aim to drastically reduce the toll of drunk driving.

And what a toll it is. In 2013, there were 10,076 people killed in drunk-driving crashes, almost a third of all traffic fatalities. Thirty-eight percent of crash fatalities on Labor Day weekend that year involved drunk drivers (with blood alcohol concentrations [BACs] of .08 or higher), amounting to 161 lives lost. And we're not just talking about a little bit of alcohol, either. More than a quarter (27%) of the crash fatalities that occurred on Labor Day weekend involved drivers with BACs of .15 or higher—almost twice the illegal per se limit.

"Too many people think their actions don't affect anybody else," said Sheriff Greg Champagne. "They know it's illegal. They know it's wrong. But they do it anyway – they make decisions as if those statistics just can't happen to them," he added.