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Public Information Office:(727) 582-6221

Marianne Pasha:
mpasha@pcsonet.com

Media News Line:(727) 582-6495

Cecilia Barreda:
cbarreda@pcsonet.com

Fax:(727) 582-5911

Sgt. Thomas Nestor:
tnestor@pcsonet.com

Deputies To Conduct Sobriety Checkpoints In Pinellas County As Holidays Approach

Release Number: 11-290

Who:

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
 Patrol Operations Bureau
 Special Operations Division
 -Patrol Deputies (North and South County)
 -Prisoner Transport Unit
 -Traffic Crash Investigators
 - Community Policing Unit
 - K-9 Unit
 - Explorer Post 900
 Investigative Operations Bureau
 -Narcotics Unit

Remove Intoxicated Drivers (RID)

What: In an effort to reduce DUI related injuries and save lives this Holiday season, Pinellas County deputies will conduct four DUI checkpoints over the next two weekends.

Where: The sobriety checkpoints will be conducted at multiple locations and times as listed below.

When: The sobriety checkpoints will be held at the following locations and times:

Friday, December 9, 2011 from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
 Church by the Sea located at 495 137th Avenue Circle in Madeira Beach.

Saturday, December 10, 2011 from 12:30 a.m. to 3:30 a.m.
 National Aviation Academy located at 6225 Ulmerton Road in Clearwater.

Friday, December 16, 2011 from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
 Berea Baptist Church located at 370 Alt. 19 in Palm Harbor.

Saturday, December 17, 2011 from 12:30 a.m. to 3:30 a.m.
 K-Mart located at 26996 US Highway 19 North in Clearwater

How/Why:

Pinellas County deputies will conduct multiple DUI Checkpoints over the next two weekends. The goal of the sobriety checkpoints is to raise awareness that will help reduce injuries and save lives this holiday season; as well as enforce the Sheriff's Office zero-tolerance for drinking and driving/drug consumption and driving.

DUI enforcement is designed to keep families safe from one of the greatest threats to our communities – THE IMPAIRED DRIVER. Statistics show that in 2010 there were 1,198 alcohol related crashes in Pinellas County. Those crashes resulted in 699 injuries and 42 fatalities.

At the sobriety checkpoints, about thirty-five to forty Patrol, Prisoner Transport, Community Policing, K-9, and Narcotics deputies will be on the lookout for alcohol and drug impaired drivers. Members of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Traffic Crash Investigators Unit and the Explorer Post 900 will also assist with non-enforcement related tasks. Deputies will also be looking for other traffic violations to include driver license, registration, insurance, and equipment violations.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Mobile Command Bus will be used for breath testing and processing of arrested individuals.

For more information about the Sobriety Checkpoints, contact Sergeant Nicholas Lazaris of Patrol Operations North Division at 727-582-6200.