

Union — Members of the Township’s D.W.I. Task Force will be cracking down on drunk drivers on “Thanksgiving Eve” as part of their Public Awareness and Safety Campaign. The holiday season’s first DWI checkpoint will be located on Route 22 Westbound (MILE POST 54.46) just west of Madison Avenue from 11pm Wednesday Night to 3am Thanksgiving morning, according to Police Director Daniel Zieser.

“This department recognizes the magnitude of the drunken driving problem and has a strong interest in deterring and detecting intoxicated motorists. This department will put forth a sincere effort to eradicate it, thereby ensuring safe roadways for the motoring public. There’s simply no excuse to drink and drive,” Zieser stated. “The decision to get behind the wheel after drinking can change not just your own life, but the life of your family, your friends, and everyone who is on the road with you. A new initiative aimed at targeting “Buzzed Driver’s” is underway because even one drink can impair judgment and reaction time, creating a potentially deadly situation”, Zieser added. “Buzzed Driving” is a new term being used when referring to impaired driving.

The task force will also use this as a concentrated effort to raise awareness about the dangers of drunk driving through high-visibility enforcement and public education platform that will provide each driver with a with a pamphlet, which includes DWI penalties and the purpose of the checkpoint.

Nationally, this particular evening is a well recognized “party night” with heavily travelled roadways — one of the busiest travel times of the year.

The Division of Highway Traffic Safety offers the following advice to ensure a safe travel season for those who choose to drink alcohol:

- Take mass transit, a taxi or ask a sober friend to drive you home.
  - \* Spend the night rather than get behind the wheel.
  - \* Report impaired drivers to law enforcement. In New Jersey, drivers may dial #77 to report a drunk or aggressive driver.
  - \* Always buckle up, every ride, regardless of your seating position in the vehicle. It’s your best defense against an impaired driver.
  - \* If you’re intoxicated and traveling on foot, the safest way to get home is to take a cab or have a sober friend or family member drive or escort you to your doorstep.

This and future DWI Checkpoints as well as roving DWI patrols are being deployed throughout the Township in conjunction with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s “Over the Limit/Under Arrest DWI Campaign”. “Motorists that choose to drink and drive should be forewarned that they will be caught and they will be arrested, Zieser concluded.