



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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HCPD urges drivers to travel safely this holiday weekend *Police also focusing on youth driver safety as school year ends*

Howard County police will increase patrols this Memorial Day weekend to enforce traffic safety laws and take impaired drivers off the road. As the school year ends and summer begins, the department will also continue its focus on youth driver safety.

While celebrations are common over the holiday weekend, the department is urging drivers to celebrate safely and designate a sober driver before consuming any alcohol.

Memorial Day weekend and the start of summer mark the beginning of a season where police often see an increase in collisions. In 2014, 377 people in the U.S. died in crashes over Memorial Day weekend, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Howard County officers are increasing traffic enforcement on roadways throughout the county, including around high schools during arrival and departure times. The goal of the increased police presence will be to reduce speeding, distracted driving and aggressive driving, and to increase seat belt use among drivers and passengers.

Police are urging teens who are attending graduation parties to use good judgment. Don't drink and don't get into a car with anyone who has been drinking or is impaired.

The Howard County Police Department is reminding drivers of all ages to travel safely during Memorial Day weekend and throughout the year.

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