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For Immediate Release

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Lima, Ohio (June 28, 2017) – Soon, the nation will join together in one big party to celebrate the 4th of July. As a reminder to everyone celebrating the 4th, the Allen County Sheriff's Office, the Lima Police Department, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol as well as other local law enforcement will be working overtime throughout the weekend to keep our roadways safe from impaired drivers by enforcing Ohio's impaired driving laws.

Someone in the United States dies in an alcohol-impaired-driving crash every 48 minutes, according to research by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. As of this week, there have been 488 traffic deaths in Ohio this year; about 21% (102) were related to alcohol-impaired-driving. Last year in Ohio, there were 346 traffic fatalities that resulted from impaired driving, almost half (47%) were young people between the age of 15 and 34; 80% were male. That's why there is a crackdown on impaired driving during the July 4th holiday. We are reminding everyone this July 4th, Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over. Remember, "Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving"!

Throughout the July 4th holiday weekend law enforcement officers will be on the lookout for impaired drivers - not only in Allen County but across the nation.

Impaired driving will not be tolerated. Freedom to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are jeopardized when people choose to drink and drive. Violators can lose their license, time from their job, and money in high fines and court costs. In addition, violators risk injury or death for themselves and others – and if things go very wrong - possible imprisonment for vehicular manslaughter or homicide.

- Choose a non-drinking designated driver.
- Take a taxicab.
- Spend the night where the event is being held.
- Report impaired drivers to law enforcement.
- Remember buzzed driving is drunk driving.



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