



130 West North Street, Lima, Ohio 45801

419-228-1836 (voice) 419-228-3891 (fax)

Contacts:
Evelyn Smith, 419- 228-1836
Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Overtime Enforcement Targeting Area Proms

Area law enforcement agencies will be conducting overtime enforcement focusing their attention on the driving behaviors of young drivers attending area proms

Lima, Ohio (April 12, 2017) – Prom is an exciting rite of passage for most high schools students and it should be a night to remember. Make it memorable for all the right reasons – keep the celebrations free of alcohol. Area law enforcement will have extra enforcement scheduled for the prom weekends: April 29 (Bluffton, Perry, LCC, Spencerville, Allen East), May 6 (Delphos Jefferson, Elida), May 13 (Delphos St. John’s, Bath, Shawnee). The Lima-Allen County Safe Community Coalition wants to remind young drivers to be especially cautious during these special celebrations. With all the excitement that comes with these events, it's easy to get caught up in the moment and forget a few basic precautions:

- **Drive responsibly** - prom nights are among the most lethal for young people, about 5,000 teenagers are injured or killed nationwide in traffic crashes in a typical prom weekend.
- **Don't text** – The text message or the phone call can wait - #ArriveAlive
- **Drink non-alcoholic beverages** - many of these crashes are alcohol-related; no matter what form it takes, alcohol will impair judgment and reflexes.
- **Drive sober** – about 5,000 young people are killed each year in traffic crashes, and a third of them are alcohol-related.
- **Be a good friend** - if a friend has been drinking, convince them to stay put and call for help.
- **Be smart** – don't ride with someone who has been drinking.
- **Buckle-up** - 70 percent of the teens killed on prom weekends were not wearing seatbelts.
- **Be alert** - sleepy drivers are as dangerous on the roads as drunk drivers. Sleepiness can affect driving performance and reflexes as much as alcohol. Stay awake and stay alive!

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