



For Immediate Release

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December 15, 2016 (Lima, Ohio) – To prevent fatal, as well as, serious injury crashes local **law enforcement agencies in Allen County will be out in full force from now until January 2, looking for, and cracking down on, impaired drivers this holiday season.**

The financial cost of an impaired driving arrest is high; but, they do not stop with the obvious fines. An arrest for operating a vehicle impaired (OVI) will cost you court costs and fines; attorney's fees; loss of vehicle and impound fees; reinstatement fees for driver's license and vehicle registration plates; loss of work time due to court appearances; and possible jail time as well as higher insurance rates.

These costs, however, do not compare with the loss of a loved one killed in a traffic crash. The costs to families all across Allen County will be sorely felt this holiday season. **Over the past decade, 95 people died in tragic crashes in Allen County. During 2015 alone, 8 people died as a result of a traffic crash and so far in 2016, 14 people have died. This holiday season, families all across Allen County will be mourning the loss of a loved one to a traffic crash.**

The underlying reasons for many of these deaths include impaired driving, speed, and failure to use seat belts. Local law enforcement officials want to stop this unnecessary loss of life. Lt. David Brown, Lima Post Commander, says, "If we catch you driving impaired, we will arrest you. No exceptions. No excuses. We will be out in force to get impaired drivers off the road. We want everyone to play it safe. If you plan to go out drinking - always designate a non-drinking driver or find a different way home."



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