Beaverton Police Starting a New Program to Combat Impaired Driving

The Beaverton Police Department will be starting the No Refusal Program on Friday, November 6, 2015 at 9:00 p.m. What this means is that when a person is arrested for DUII and refuses to take a breath test a telephonic search warrant may be requested for the subjects blood. If the search warrant is granted by a judge, a licensed medical professional will come to the police department to take the blood sample. This blood will then be sent to the state crime lab to determine the blood alcohol content (BAC) and will be evidence in the case.

Studies have shown that BAC test refusals are increasing around the nation (Refusal of Intoxication Testing: A Report to Congress, NHTSA). The Beaverton Police Department made 361 DUII arrests in 2014 and the refusal rate was approximately 23.5 percent. As a result of the lack of a breath sample or other physical evidence, the likelihood of these subjects pleading not guilty and moving forward with a trial is much higher. As a consequence there are more resources utilized from within the criminal justice system (i.e. courts, prosecutors, defense attorneys and other infrastructure) which has a direct negative impact on the efficiency of the criminal justice system and the safety of our community.

The Beaverton Police Department takes impaired driving seriously and are always looking for new ways to keep our residents safe. We feel this program will get more drivers the help they need to avoid driving impaired again and potentially causing their death or the death of an innocent person.

This program is being funded by a grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). The goal of this program is to increase the prosecution of DUII arrests and make Beaverton an even safer city to live and travel in.

#BPD#