Beaverton Police Officers Made 423 DUII Arrests in 2015

The Beaverton Police Department participated in a yearlong National Traffic Safety Campaign, with a focus on taking impaired drivers of our streets.

The Beaverton Police Department had officers out on focused patrols for impaired drivers every month in 2015. The goal of this campaign is to save lives and educate the motoring public about the dangers of driving impaired. This important campaign will continue in 2016. Beaverton Police Officers will continue their efforts to take impaired drivers off of Beaverton streets. These High Visibly Enforcement (HVE) details are paid for by grant funds.

The City of Beaverton started a no refusal program targeting impaired driving on November 6th, 2015. When a person is arrested for DUII and refuses to take a breath test a telephonic search warrant may be requested for the subject’s 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. There were 11 no refusal blood draws taken in 2015.

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.

Drunk driving, impaired driving or buzzed driving all have the potential to claim lives and often will result in jail time. The men and women of the Beaverton Police Department ask you to please think about this before you operate a motor vehicle after drinking alcohol or using any other substance that impairs your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

##BPD##

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NEWS RELEASE

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