MONROE COUNTY STOP-DWI HOSTS “LIGHTS ON FOR LIFE” MOTORCADE

Annual Event Marks the Beginning of National Drugged and Drunk Driving Month

Monroe County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo today joined Sheriff Patrick O’Flynn, District Attorney Sandra Doorley and representatives from the Monroe County STOP-DWI Program, as well as Rochester Against Intoxicated Driving (RAID) and family members of DWI victims to host the annual ‘Lights On For Life’ motorcade. The event is held every year to honor victims and their families and to raise awareness of the dangers of drugged driving and DWI.

“Drunk and impaired driving has already caused so much pain in our community and this holiday season we are delivering a reminder for those on the roads: do not risk lives, do not drink and drive,” said Dinolfo. “This motorcade is a tribute to those we have already tragically lost to drunk or impaired driving and serves as a reminder of its dangerous consequences. Monroe County will do our part to keep our roads safe and free from impaired drivers so our families can enjoy a safe holiday season.”

“Lights On For Life” is a nationwide campaign in response to rising impaired driving rates. All month, drivers are encouraged to drive with their headlights on, in recognition of the dangers of impaired driving. The event also marks the beginning of National Drugged and Drunk Driving Month.

"Monroe County’s STOP-DWI Program has led to significant reductions in the number of fatalities caused by drunken drivers – but there are still too many lives being lost because of motor vehicle collisions caused by drunk and/or impaired drivers,” said O’Flynn. “We hope to reduce those numbers even further with highly visible enforcement efforts and public awareness events.”

The Monroe County STOP-DWI Program has one of the highest conviction rates among New York State’s large counties. Since 1982, the Monroe County STOP-DWI Program has served to educate the community regarding the dangers of impaired driving and provide funding to groups and organizations engaged in activities related to alcohol and other drug-related traffic safety. STOP-DWI is supported 100% by local fines collected from intoxicated drivers.
This year Monroe County is seeing a sharp increase in the number of arrests related to drunk and impaired driving. In all of 2015, just over 2,500 people were arrested for impaired driving, however over 2,000 people have already been arrested as of September 30th this year.

“It is especially important during the month of December, which is the ‘National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month,’ that we bring more awareness to the negative impact that driving while intoxicated and driving while impaired by drugs has on all members of our community,” said Doorley. “If you see our county’s ‘Lights on for Life’ motorcade cruising around Monroe County, please show your support for our mission in raising awareness by turning on your car lights as we drive by.”

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