NEWS RELEASE

Incident Date/Time: December 11, 2019 – January 3, 2020

Type of Crime/Incident:

San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office Arrested 23 Impaired Drivers During 2019 Holiday Season – Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Campaign

Summary:

San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office, California — The Sheriff’s Office partnered with the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for the 2019 Holiday Season Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over drunk-driving enforcement campaign. From December 11, 2019, through January 3, 2020, local law enforcement showed zero tolerance for impaired driving, arresting 23 offenders.

The San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office ramped up its usual enforcement efforts, conducting a DUI checkpoint and adding numerous DUI Saturation Patrols. Sheriff Carlos Bolanos said that by removing 23 drunk drivers from the roads, many lives were likely saved.

“We can’t stress this enough: Drunk driving is deadly, illegal behavior, and it puts the driver, his or her passengers, and other road users at terrible risk,” said Sheriff Carlos Bolanos. “The Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign helps our law enforcement officers better address this problem head on. If you feel impaired by any substance, do not get behind the wheel of a vehicle,” he said.

According to NHTSA’s Fatality Analysis Reporting System, 839 people lost their lives in traffic crashes involving a drunk driver during the month of December 2018. During the Christmas and New Year’s Day holiday periods in 2018 alone, there were more drunk driving related fatalities (285) than during any other holiday period that year. These fatalities are preventable, and drivers must remember that driving impaired by any substance — drugs or alcohol — is deadly, illegal, and selfish behavior.
“We encourage partygoers to always make a plan before they head out to their festivities, so that they may avoid driving drunk at all costs,” said Sheriff Carlos Bolanos. “Remember: It is never okay to drink and drive. Even one drink can be one drink too many. Drinking and driving is a choice; one you should never make.”

Release Date:
January 6, 2020