NEWS RELEASE

Incident Date and Time: August 19 – September 7, 2020

Location: San Mateo County – Sheriff’s Office

Type of Crime/Incident: Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over

San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office Arrested 17 Drunk Drivers During Campaign

Summary:
San Mateo County, CA - The U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration joined the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office for the national Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Labor Day weekend drunk driving enforcement campaign. From August 19-September 7, the Sheriff’s Office protected community members by showing zero tolerance for impaired driving during nearly 500 traffic enforcement contacts and arresting 17 offenders for the deadly crime.

“First and foremost, our goal is to protect the citizens of this community, so we’ve been spreading the message about the dangers of drunk driving for years,” said Sheriff Carlos Bolanos. “We hope that with each Drive Sober campaign, more people listen, and our drunk driving arrests decrease. It is imperative to remember that if you feel impaired by any substance, you should not get behind the wheel of a vehicle,” he said.

During the 2018 Labor Day holiday period (6 p.m. August 31 – 5:59 a.m. September 4), there were 439 crash fatalities nationwide. Forty-three percent of those fatalities involved drivers who had been drinking (.01+ BAC). More than one-third (38%) of the fatalities involved drivers who were drunk (.08+ BAC), and nearly one-fourth (24%) involved drivers who were driving with a BAC almost twice the legal limit (.15+ BAC). Age is a particularly risky factor: Among drivers between the ages of 18 and 34 who were killed in crashes over the Labor Day holiday period in 2018, 47% of those drivers were drunk, with BACs of .08 or higher.

“We encourage partygoers to make a plan before they head out to their festivities, so that they may avoid driving drunk at all costs,” said Sheriff 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.”


Written by: Sgt. Jacob Trickett, San Carlos Police Bureau

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