News Release

512 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE

For immediate release

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Summit Police Department to participate in "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign

SUMMIT, NJ, August 14, 2023 – Beginning on August 18, 2023, and continuing through September 4, 2023, the Summit Police Department (SPD) is participating in the annual "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign. The SPD received a grant for \$7,000 from the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety to initiate the campaign that is focused on removing impaired drivers from the roads and preventing potential tragedies.

Launched in December 1999, the national "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign is a partnership of criminal justice and traffic safety partners in all 50 states that is committed to reducing deaths from impaired driving. Through the combined efforts of thousands of devoted public and private partners, more than 150 million Americans have learned about the campaign from newspapers, the Internet, and from radio and television broadcasts.

"Every year, countless lives in New Jersey are lost due to impaired driving," explains Summit Police Chief Steven Zagorski. The "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign is a commitment from the Summit Police Department to step up its patrols and keep a vigilant watch for those making the deadly decision to drive under the influence. This campaign allows us to send a clear message: if you are impaired, do not get behind the wheel."

During the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign residents can expect:

Increased Patrols: More officers will be on the roads, particularly during peak hours and weekends, actively looking for signs of impaired driving.

Community Engagement: The Summit Police Department will be partnering with local businesses and community organizations to promote the message, offering resources on alternative transportation and tips on how to be a responsible host.

Educational Outreach: Officers will be present in community events, schools, and local gatherings to discuss the dangers of impaired driving, share personal stories, and answer questions from the public.

The Summit Police Department offers the following tips to avoid impaired driving:

- Plan a safe way home before drinking.
- Designate a sober driver or use public transportation, taxis, or ride-sharing services.



- If you see a drunk driver on the road, call 911 to inform local law enforcement.
- If someone you know is about to drive impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements.

Chief Zagorski adds: "We hope that by amplifying our efforts during this campaign, we can create a lasting impact and cultivate safe driving habits throughout our community."

More information on the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign and the Summit Police Department is available on the city <u>website</u>.

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