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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Rockford Police Lauded for Efforts to Reduce Intoxicated Driving

ROCKFORD, Ill. – The Rockford Police Department tied for first place for the most DUI arrests in 2015 according to a press announcement by the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAIM) that was distributed today.

The recognition notes the department's productive efforts to reduce significant deterrents to impaired driving. "Focused efforts and cooperation of law enforcement agencies, traffic safety advocates and communities have helped to prevent crashes and save thousands of lives," said Rita Kreslin, Executive Director of AAIM.

The Rockford Police Department has four traffic detectives assigned to a DUI task force that works from 7:00 p.m. – 5:00 a.m. seven days a week. In 2015, Rockford officers engaged in additional training in standardized field sobriety testing.

"Impaired driving is a serious issue, one in which we dedicate staff specific to enforcing the laws that keep law-abiding drivers and pedestrians safe," declared Rockford Police Chief Dan O'Shea. "We are honored to be recognized by AAIM and proud of the department's enforcement efforts. We will continue to make it clear, especially as we enter a holiday weekend, that impaired driving is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in our community."

The Rockford Police Department has consistently ranked within the top eight departments in DUI arrests since 2007. Rockford's 464 DUI arrests were a 20.8% increase over 2014's arrests. The department investigated 5,678 traffic crashes in 2015, a 9 percent increase from 2014. This year Rockford Police has investigated more than 2,500 accidents, 12 of which were fatalities. At least half of the fatal accidents involved alcohol or drug impairment.

AAIM's press release and other supporting documents are attached.

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