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ROCKFORD LEADS IN DUI ARRESTS FOR SIXTH YEAR

DEKALB HAS REMARKABLE INCREASE IN DUI ARRESTS

Schaumburg, June 25, 2013: DUI arrests and law enforcement efforts are the most significant deterrents to impaired driving. The Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAIM) is pleased to release the results of our Annual Illinois DUI Arrest Survey for 2012. AAIM has conducted this survey, which is funded by a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation, for 23 years.

Since 1990, AAIM has conducted an annual survey of Illinois police departments to determine how many DUI arrests they make and to give recognition to the most productive departments and police officers. Nearly 700 police agencies were surveyed with 84% responding. AAIM not only praises these departments and individual officers, but we also continue to encourage them to keep up the fight against drunk driving.

For the sixth consecutive year, the Rockford Police Department is first in the state in DUI arrests among municipal departments with 699 arrests for 2012. (Because of its size, Chicago is in its own category.)

In 2012, Naperville was second with 576 arrests, followed by Springfield (460), Peoria (426), Decatur (408), Carol Stream (389), Aurora (330), Elmhurst (324), Rock Island (323), and

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Normal (322). “Departments that make more DUI arrests do not necessarily pinpoint more drunk drivers in Illinois communities,” said Rita Kreslin, Executive Director of AAIM. “It does indicate additional active enforcement in municipalities and counties, which aides in targeting DUI offenders.”

The biggest increase in arrests among the top departments was in the city of DeKalb where DUI arrests jumped by 44% in 2012 compared to 2011. Other municipalities with large increases from 2011 to 2010 are Peoria (39.2%), Fairview Heights (34.0%), Hanover Park (25.9%) and Aurora (13.8%).

The highest DUI arrest rate in the state among departments making at least 200 arrests was Itasca which had 11.78 arrests per sworn officer. The second highest rate of 8.60 was in Bull Valley. Arrests per officer are an indicator of a department’s emphasis on DUI enforcement and are a measure that can be used to compare smaller departments.

Arrests made by the Chicago Police increased by 25% in 2012 (3,795) compared to 2011 (3,037), Illinois State Police arrests decreased by 25.7% in 2012 (7,220) compared to 2011 (9,719). The sheriff’s department reporting the most DUI arrests was Cook County (430), while Lake (337), LaSalle (240), Champaign (222) and Coles (220) Counties round out the top five sheriff departments.

Rockford Investigator John Wenstrom was Illinois Top Cop with 205 DUI arrests. AAIM also commends the life-saving efforts of Chicago Police Officers Timothy Walter, who arrested 179 drunk drivers, and Matthew Tegtmeier, who arrested 154 drunk drivers. “AAIM has great respect for all these officers and departments for their aggressive DUI enforcement. We are grateful for their willingness to put forth the extra effort in removing drunk drivers from our roads,” said Kreslin.

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“One reason AAIM continues to survey and report the number of impaired driving arrests throughout Illinois because traffic safety advocates believe that drunk drivers who are arrested are the fortunate ones. In our impaired driving prevention programs, we always remind people that if they are driving drunk they are lucky if it is a cop that stops them, rather than a tree, another car or a small child," according to AAIM Board Vice President and crash survivor, Marti Belluschi.

AAIM is an Illinois-only citizen activist group founded in 1982 by victims of drunk driving. Prevention, victim advocacy, and legislation encompass the mission of AAIM, a recognized Illinois expert on these issues. The survey provides a valuable service to Illinois citizens by encouraging them to compare the DUI enforcement record of their local police department with that of other communities. As a result, public pressure can be applied, where needed, to encourage DUI enforcement as a priority.

A detailed listing of survey results and participating departments is available at:

www.aaim1.org

Questions? – email: anita@aaim1.org

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