



NEWS RELEASE

TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 21, 2008

Sheriff's Office To Have Extra Deputies On The Road For Holiday Period

The Sheriff's Office has received a grant from TX DOT to put Deputies on the road in a Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) aimed at getting speeding, and impaired, drivers off the road.

The grant will allow the Sheriff's Office to put additional deputies on the road that will be looking for impaired drivers and speeding violators during the Memorial Day Holiday period that started on **May 19, 2008** and will last until **June 1, 2008**. As part of the program the grant will pay overtime to deputies working various shifts over the 14 days.

Traffic fatalities are rising in Travis County and the two main causes in many of those collisions are alcohol and speed. That is why the Sheriff's Office is looking for ways to increase our presence on the roadways and aggressively seek out Speeding and DWI Offenders.

The penalties for the first DWI Offense are;

- Up to \$2000 Fine.
- 72 hours to Six Months in Jail.
- Loss of Drivers License for up to a Year.
- \$1,000.00 Annual fee for three consecutive years to retain Drivers License.

Remember, if you feel "buzzed" you most likely are impaired. If you are impaired we are looking for you. So plan ahead or plan to get arrested. Take the advice of those who know. If you drink, don't drive. Have a designated driver or take a cab, just don't drive.

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Submitted By: Roger Wade, Public Information Officer, (512) 854-4986