



MAYOR CHRIS BOLLWAGE

CITY OF ELIZABETH

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **CITY OF ELIZABETH POLICE DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATING IN STATEWIDE “2019 DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER” CAMPAIGN**

**ELIZABETH, NJ— December 18, 2019** — Law enforcement officers from the Elizabeth Police Department will be cracking down on drivers impaired by alcohol or drugs as part of the annual end of year “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” statewide campaign. Beginning December 6, 2019 and continuing through January 1, 2020, local and state law enforcement officials will conduct saturation patrols and sobriety checkpoints, looking for motorists who may be driving while intoxicated.

The Elizabeth Police Department will conduct 2 DWI checkpoints during evening hours in the coming weeks. The first checkpoint will target Elizabeth Avenue on Saturday, December 21. The following weekend, on Friday, December 27, officers will establish a checkpoint on Newark Avenue.

The national “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” effort endeavors to raise awareness about the dangers of impaired driving through a combination of high-visibility enforcement and public education. “Over the last five years, New Jersey experienced nearly 37,000 alcohol related crashes, resulting in more than 679 fatalities,” said Mayor Chris Bollwage. “This is a critical law enforcement program that can save lives during a time of the year when social gatherings with alcohol increase the risk of impaired driving.”

Last year, 20% of all motor vehicle fatalities in New Jersey were alcohol-related. Nationally, 10,511 people died in 2018 in drunk driving crashes. The societal cost associated with these crashes is estimated to be \$44 billion annually.

Law enforcement agencies participating in the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over 2019 Year End Holiday Crackdown offer the following advice for the holiday season:

- Take mass transit, a taxicab, or ask a sober friend to drive you home.
- Spend the night where the activity or party is held.
- If you see an impaired driver on the road, contact law enforcement. Your actions may save someone’s life and inaction could cost a life.
- Always buckle-up, every ride. It’s your best defense against an impaired driver.
- If you are intoxicated and traveling on foot, the safest way to get home is to take a cab or have a sober friend or family member drive or escort you to your doorstep.
- Be responsible. If someone you know is drinking, do not let that person get behind the wheel.