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## **La Porte Police announce increased patrols, enhanced DWI enforcement during Spring Break**

March 11-17 is the official period of Spring Break this year for most areas throughout Texas. However, the La Porte Police Department has announced that, instead of taking a break, it will be putting more officers on the street as well as focusing its DWI enforcement efforts beginning Friday, March 8.

For La Porte Police, this means targeted local DWI enforcement efforts every night, along with general street patrol supplementation on weekends in an effort to locate burglars and car thieves. LPPD will have both marked and unmarked units canvassing the City specifically designated to address the listed crimes.

In addition, as both beginning and ending Spring Break weekends also cover rodeo events and St. Patrick's Day, a greater amount of social gatherings and entertainment activities are anticipated. As such, La Porte Police will join several other area law enforcement agencies during this period, with the assistance of a Houston Galveston Area Council (HGAC) Regional DWI Task Force Grant, to further cut down on incidents of motorists driving while intoxicated (DWI). This is the second enforcement wave for this Task Force, which is comprised of multiple agencies from around the Houston-Galveston area. The initiative provides overtime funds for agencies to provide enhanced DWI enforcement during holiday weekends when there has traditionally been more alcohol-related traffic incidents. Funding for the program is provided by the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) through a Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) grant. This STEP grant, which is administered through HGAC, will fund up to 50 additional area officers each night looking specifically for drunk drivers.

Texas and Harris County's various DWI reduction programs have consistently proven to reduce injuries, fatalities, and property damage along major thoroughfares. In fact, prior Center for Disease Control and Prevention report statistics reveal that every day almost 30 people in the United States die in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver. This amounts to one death every 48 minutes. In addition, the annual cost of alcohol-related crashes totals more than \$51 billion. Thankfully, there are effective measures, such as designated police patrols, that can help prevent injuries and deaths from alcohol-impaired driving.

With these facts in mind, residents are reminded to drive safely, while taking comfort in knowing additional traffic enforcement officers are monitoring local roadways and neighborhoods in an effort to increase the level of safety. For more information on La Porte Police Department's involvement in any of the various DWI and target patrol enforcement programs, please contact the agency at 281-842-3741.