

JIM LEITNER  
FIRST ASSISTANT



CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER  
1201 FRANKLIN, SUITE 600  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002-1901

**PATRICIA R. LYKOS  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS**

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Donna Hawkins  
George Flynn  
713-755-3320

**DWI “Hot Spots” Program Heads Toward July 4 with 110 Arrests**

Houston, Tx – No Refusal Program police patrols and prosecutor teams have made 110 DWI arrests thus far in targeted “Hot Spots,” as part of a special enforcement operation that continues during the July Fourth holiday weekend, Harris County District Attorney Patricia Lykos reported.

Of those arrested, 35 refused voluntary breath tests and had No Refusal warrants issued for blood samples to determine their intoxicant levels. Officials anticipate more arrests with the approach of increased holiday traffic from July Fourth festivities. No Refusal units will return for the prime DWI hours from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. this Friday and Saturday (July 3-4).

The Houston and Pasadena Police Departments are hosting the program. No Refusal teams invite all law enforcement agencies in Harris County to use their testing areas and services.

Patrols will continue to concentrate on “Hot Spot” zones where the most DWI-related crashes have occurred in recent years in the county. Among them are the central Houston areas of downtown, Midtown, Montrose and Washington Avenue; Pasadena and Clear Lake areas, including Spencer Highway; and Westside city and county areas that include State Highway 6, Westheimer and Hillcroft.

Brent Mayr, chief of the District Attorney’s Vehicular Crimes Section, said the effectiveness of the program is apparent from the reduced rate of suspects refusing to provide breath samples.

“The message is getting out there. We’re seeing people leaving their cars behind in parking lots rather than risk driving after they’ve had too much to drink,” Mayr said. “They’ve heard that if you get stopped and refuse, we’re going to get a search warrant and take your blood.”

The No Refusal program enables law enforcement officers and prosecutors to promptly obtain warrants to draw blood from intoxicated suspects who refuse requests for voluntary testing.

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