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Law Enforcement Working this Labor Day Holiday to Take Intoxicated Drivers Off Streets

Expanded "No Refusal" blood-testing in-effect Friday through Monday

As the Labor Day holiday approaches, District Attorney Pat Lykos today reminded the citizens of Harris County that dedicated teams of officers, prosecutors, judges and nurses will be working around the clock to remove intoxicated drivers from area roadways.

"Texans like to work hard and play hard—but getting behind the wheel while under the influence of alcohol or drugs both threatens and steals innocent lives," Lykos said. "If you violate the basic social contract to respect the rights of others, we will do everything in our power to make certain you pay the price."

Many intoxicated drivers are refusing to perform the breath alcohol tests. Under the *No Refusal* program, assistant district attorneys partner with medical personnel and law enforcement officers who conduct special DWI enforcement patrols. State law authorizes the teams to obtain search warrants to draw blood samples from suspected DWI motorists who refuse voluntary breath tests. This program ensures that prosecutors obtain the scientific evidence need to effectively prosecute impaired drivers.

The *No Refusal* project is an initiative of the Harris County District Attorney's Office, which received a three-year Texas Department of Transportation grant for this more intensive approach to fighting DWI, to be implemented every weekend of the year. Because of the holiday, the upcoming *No Refusal* weekend will be in effect from **Friday, August 31st through Monday, September 3rd**.

"Enjoy the holiday but do so responsibly," Lykos added. "If you are going to be drinking, either designate a sober driver or call a cab—or your next job may be steering a mop around a prison floor", she concluded.