

**Belinda Hill**  
**First Assistant**

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**Criminal Justice Center**  
**1201 Franklin, Suite 600**  
**Houston, Texas 77002**

## **Harris County District Attorney**

Devon Anderson

**Contact**

Camille Hepola  
Jeff McShan

*En Español: Will Mejia*  
*Maritza Antu*

W: (713) 755-0122

# **DA Urges the Public to Not Drink and Drive after Weekend Fatality**

*Defendant charged with Intoxicated Manslaughter, hits  
and kills driver*

District Attorney Devon Anderson announced today that Craig Welch of the Woodlands, age 23, was charged with one count of Intoxicated Manslaughter with a Vehicle. The charge stems from a March 9<sup>th</sup> incident in which Welch ran a red light and struck the driver of a red Chevrolet Corvette at the intersection of FM 1960 and West Lake Houston Parkway.

“It’s truly heartbreaking that we have lost another life to an intoxicated driver,” said District Attorney Devon Anderson. “If you are going to drink alcohol or are under the influence, please do not drive. Call a taxi driver or ask a sober driver to drive you home. I can’t say this enough. We have a lot of events going on in March and there are a lot of people on the road. We want everyone to stay safe on the roads.”

During the month of March, the DA’s Office will have a no refusal initiative every weekend as the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and other festivities get underway. There will be extra prosecutors on duty to assist law enforcement agencies in filing cases on arrested intoxicated drivers. The no refusal initiative for this weekend, ahead of St. Patrick’s Day, will start on Thursday, March 13th, and last through the morning of Monday, March 17th.

Under the no refusal law, prosecutors will seek a search warrant to draw the blood of any suspected intoxicated driver who refuses a breathalyzer or to give a blood sample. In April 2013, the Harris County District Attorney’s Office became one of the first Houston area counties to enforce no refusal every day.

Over the past 3 years, the number of DWI related incidents in the month of March have remained unsettling. In 2011, there were 557 arrests and 3 fatalities. In 2012, there were 497 arrests and 0 fatalities. In 2013, there were 591 arrests and 2 fatalities. So far during this March’s no refusal initiative, there have been 317 cases and 1 fatality.

Harris County leads the nation in DWI fatalities. The purpose of no refusal is to reduce the number of impaired drivers on the roads and save lives.