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DA No Refusal Programs Target DWI “Hot Spots” Through July Fourth

Houston, Tx – Beginning tonight, back-to-back No Refusal weekend DWI enforcement operations will bring down another kind of summer heat on intoxicated motorists in proven high-incident “Hot Spot” zones of Harris County.

District Attorney Patricia Lykos announced that special anti-DWI program patrols and prosecutor teams will be in full force this weekend and during the July 3 and 4 holiday weekend. They will operate in peak DWI periods from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

The enforcement teams will concentrate on the known “Hot Spots” – areas that recorded the most DWI-related crashes from 2005-07.

“On this Independence Day, our citizens and their families deserve to enjoy freedom from the very real threat of intoxicated drivers in our county,” said Brent Mayr, head of the District Attorney’s Vehicular Crimes Section. “Safety for the public is the paramount reason why we conduct these No Refusal operations.”

The Houston Police Department and Pasadena Police Department are hosts for the operations. Mayr said the No Refusal testing areas are available for use by all police agencies in the county. Multiple agencies are targeting the following “Hot Spot” zones:

Westside sections of Houston and Harris County, including areas of Westheimer, Hillcroft and State Highway 6; downtown and Midtown areas; sections of Montrose and Washington Avenue near downtown; and the Pasadena/Clear Lake areas, including sections of Spencer Highway.

The No Refusal program enables law enforcement officers and prosecutors to obtain warrants promptly to draw blood from intoxicated suspects who refuse requests for voluntary testing. During the last No Refusal operation during the Memorial Day period, officers made 247 arrests. In cases where warrants were involved, the average blood alcohol content was about 0.15 – nearly twice the legal limit.

“We want people to think twice about making the decision to drink and drive,” Mayr said. “You can no longer take that chance and think you can get out of it by refusing to ‘blow.’ With this program, we’re going to find out one way or another how intoxicated you are.”

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