



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

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Public Information Office  
Donna Hawkins  
George Flynn  
713-755-3320

**DA's Program Secures 191 DWI-related Arrests for Labor Day Weekend**

Houston, Tx – The Harris County District Attorney's Labor Day Weekend "No Refusal" enforcement program resulted in almost 200 DWI-related charges, with nearly 20 percent of those against drivers with prior DWI convictions, District Attorney Patricia Lykos announced Wednesday.

This "No Refusal" program was the first operation utilizing new state laws that no longer require prosecutors and police to obtain warrants to draw blood samples of intoxicated motorists in certain situations. It was deployed during overnight periods that extended from last Friday night through last Monday morning (Sept. 4-7).

Brent Mayr, Chief of the District Attorney's Vehicular Crimes Section, reported on the results during that period. Six drivers charged with DWI had mandatory, warrantless blood tests after they refused to voluntarily provide blood specimens. A judge authorized search warrants to obtain blood samples from another 30 of those charged.

Overall, prosecutors filed 191 DWI charges, with 35 for repeat DWI offenses.

The "No Refusal" deployment was available for use by all police agencies in Harris County. Blood samples were drawn at facilities provided by the hosting law enforcement agencies, the Houston and Pasadena Police Departments.

"This operation was a double success – it took intoxicated drivers off the streets, and it was deterring others from getting behind the wheel," Mayr said. "We are committed to protecting the public from intoxicated drivers. If you drive under the influence, you are going to get caught. Refusing to provide a sample will not prevent you from being charged."

Mayr said "No Refusal" procedures have been recognized by the highest appellate courts as legitimate, constitutional tools in enforcing DWI laws. The newest statutes allow officers and prosecutors to use qualified medical personnel to draw blood samples from intoxicated motorists with children in their vehicles, or who have prior DWI offenses, or who are involved in crashes with injuries requiring medical attention.

More No Refusal operations are expected for upcoming holiday periods, Mayr said.  
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