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DA LYKOS ANNOUNCES *NO REFUSAL* HOLIDAY WEEKEND RESULTS

(Houston, TX) Harris County District Attorney Pat Lykos announced the results of the holiday weekend's *No Refusal* Program targeted at taking impaired drivers off the streets.

The District Attorney's Office charged 156 drivers with intoxication offenses over the holiday weekend, December 23rd to the 26th. Two people were charged with offenses that caused serious bodily injury to others. Forty-one people were charged with driving while intoxicated with a breath alcohol concentration of more than 0.15, a figure nearly twice the normal limit of 0.08.

A new initiative enabled officers to transport suspects to the nearest breath testing facility in the county, regardless of which law enforcement agency housed the instrument. The Texas Department of Public Safety recently took over supervision of the county breath alcohol testing machines, a move that made this possible.

This program allows police to spend more time on the streets fighting crime and less time transporting suspects to testing facilities.

There were fewer intoxication accidents this year than in previous years. Lykos applauded law enforcement and the public for the reduction.

"The word is getting out about *No Refusal*, and people are obviously making plans for transportation after drinking at holiday gatherings," Lykos said. "We will change Harris County from being notorious for drunken driving deaths, to being recognized for making our streets safer."

The program will once again be in effect for the New Year's holiday weekend.

A grant from the Texas Department of Transportation allows the Harris County *No Refusal* program to run every weekend throughout the year. People suspected of intoxicated driving are first offered a breath test to determine their breath alcohol concentration. If a suspect refuses to give a sample of his breath, a search warrant is drafted to obtain a sample of the suspect's blood.

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