



NILES POLICE DEPARTMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

Luis C. Tigera, Chief of Police

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This St. Patrick's Day, Plan Before You Party!

Remember: Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over

Niles, IL – All too often, St. Patrick's Day celebrations turn deadly because of impaired driving. However you celebrate, make sure you and your friends stay safe this St. Patrick's Day by remembering one important piece of advice: If you'll be drinking alcohol, using cannabis or any other impairing substance, remember "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" and "Drive High. Get a DUI."

"This year, St. Patrick's Day falls on a Friday, and that means more parties throughout the weekend," said Chief of Police, Luis C. Tigera, *"If you've been drinking, using cannabis or any other impairing drug, make the smart choice and plan for a sober driver to get you and your friends home safely. Before you put your keys in the ignition, remind yourself: "Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving."*

"We want everyone to enjoy St. Patrick's Day, but safe driving is everyone's responsibility," Chief of Police, Luis C. Tigera continued.

This year, the Niles Police Department will be out in full force from **Friday, March 10th** until **Sunday, March 19th**, with a heavy enforcement focus on impaired driving violations.

In addition to looking for alcohol and cannabis-impaired drivers, the Niles Police will be stepping up enforcement of speeding, distracted driving and, seat belt violations, particularly at night when seat belt usage rates are lowest.

"Before celebrating St. Patrick's Day this year, decide whether you'll drink or you'll drive, or whether you'll use or you'll drive," Chief of Police, Luis C. Tigera said. *"If you choose to drink or use cannabis, designate a sober, reliable driver to get you home safely."*

Always designating a sober driver and not letting friends drive drunk are just two simple steps to help avoid a tragic crash or an arrest for driving under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

Pedestrians are at risk, too. If you are walking, keep an eye out for cars. Designated drivers: Be alert for impaired walkers who may not obey street signs.

The St. Patrick's Day enforcement campaign is funded by federal traffic safety funds from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and is administered through the Illinois Department of Transportation.

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