



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Andrew J. Lanza

SENATOR LANZA ANNOUNCES CRACKDOWN ON IMPAIRED DRIVING THROUGH ST. PATRICK'S DAY

ANDREW J. LANZA March 17, 2017



State Police, DMV, State Liquor Authority Team Up with Local Law Enforcement to Boost Enforcement and Keep New Yorkers Safe - Free "Have a Plan" Mobile App Helps New Yorkers Find Taxi Services, Designated Drivers and Report a Suspected Impaired Driver

Senator Andrew Lanza today announced the New York State Police, State Liquor Authority, State Department of Motor Vehicles, and local law enforcement launched an enforcement campaign to crack down on impaired drivers during the week of St. Patrick's Day. The campaign includes a number of sobriety checkpoints, additional DWI patrols, and a detail to

crackdown on underage drinking and sales to minors.

"State Police and local law enforcement are out in full force to stop irresponsible, reckless driving and protect New Yorkers this St. Patrick's Day," Senator Andrew Lanza said. "This comprehensive campaign will ramp up statewide enforcement efforts, hold impaired drivers accountable and crack down on underage drinking to keep our roadways safe and avoid needless tragedies."

In addition to the enforcement campaign, State Police will be ticketing distracted drivers using handheld electronic devices. Investigators from the State Department of Motor Vehicles will also be conducting underage drinking and fake ID prevention operations in cooperation with the State Liquor Authority. SLA Investigators will focus on sales to intoxicated patrons, disorderly premises and licensees that illegally allow patrons to take alcohol to go.

During the 2016 St. Patrick's Day weekend enforcement effort, Troopers made 257 arrests for DWI and issued more than 17,000 tickets. In addition, local law enforcement agencies, encompassing 39 counties and 140 agencies, participated in the 2016 St. Patrick's Day crackdown, which resulted in 128 DWI/DWAI arrests, 14 DWAI-Drug only arrests, 143 other arrests, and 1,802 vehicle and traffic summonses.

Additionally, the New York State STOP-DWI Foundation and GTSC "Have a Plan" mobile app enables New Yorkers to locate and call a taxi service and to program a designated driver list. The app, which is available for Apple, Droid and Windows smartphones, also provides information on DWI laws and penalties, and provides a way to report a suspected impaired driver.

St. Patrick's Day is one of the deadliest holidays due to the number of drunk drivers on the road. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the St. Patrick's Day holiday period from 2010 to 2014 saw the loss of 266 lives due to drunk-driving crashes. In 2014, 29 people – a total of 28 percent of all crash fatalities – were killed in drunk-driving crashes over the St. Patrick's Day holiday period. Drunk driving kills more than 10,000 people each year in our country. One person every 53 minutes dies of an alcohol related crash and every one of those deaths is preventable. Choosing to drive drunk can ruin or end your life or someone else's. This St. Patrick's Day, drunk drivers will face jail time, a revoked license, higher insurance rate, and dozens of unanticipated expenses. An impaired driving charge carries a maximum fine of \$10,000.

In order to enjoy a safe holiday without jeopardizing lives on the road, the New York State Police, GTSC and NHTSA ask New Yorkers to commit to the following easy steps:

- **Before the festivities begin, plan a way to safely get home at the end of the night.**
- **Before you start drinking, designate a sober driver and leave your car keys at home.**
- **If you're impaired, use a taxi or ridesharing service, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely.**
- **If available, use your community's sober ride program**
- **Walking impaired can be just as dangerous as drunk driving. Designate a sober friend to walk you home.**

If you see a drunk driver on the road, call local law enforcement. You could save a life.

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