

**Milledgeville Police Department**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Milledgeville PD participates in Operation Zero Tolerance**

As you begin making the final preparations for the fast approaching Fourth of July holiday, officials with the Milledgeville Police Department (MPD) want you to keep one thing in mind: Operation Zero Tolerance will be in full effect.

Friday, June 22, MPD in conjunction with the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) will be launching its Operation Zero Tolerance DUI campaign for the upcoming busy holiday travel period.

Operation Zero Tolerance is a nationwide mobilization of law enforcement agencies to target drivers under the influence of alcohol and drugs and get them off of the road while raising public awareness of the consequences that come along with impaired driving.

"July 4<sup>th</sup> is a time we celebrate our nation's independence," said Harris Blackwood, Director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. "But we're hoping that this year, Georgia motorists will declare their independence from drunk driving."

Operation Zero Tolerance is slated for June 22-July 5.

"This campaign gives law enforcement the opportunity to ensure everyone has a safe holiday. Police officers, sheriff's deputies and troopers from all over the state will be on the lookout for impaired driving during this time," said MPD Patrol Commander Major John Davis.

Concentrated patrols and random road checks will be conducted throughout the city at strategic locations in an effort to crackdown on motorists driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

"We urge anyone who is going to include alcohol in their holiday celebration to please plan ahead and identify a designated driver or take a taxi. A DUI conviction can adversely affect your employment, your finances and, most importantly, it places the driver and the general public at great risk," Davis added.

Georgia continues to highlight the dangers of impaired driving for the Fourth of July holiday because the data continues to show motorists are making Independence Day one of the most dangerous holidays for driving.

During the 2013 holiday travel period (July 3 to July 7), there were 5,080 traffic crashes that resulted in 1,794 injuries and 20 fatalities statewide.

“Impaired driving is truly a lose/lose situation for both the driver and other motorists,” said Lt. Reenae Gray, head supervisor for MPD’s Specialized Patrol Unit. “There’s really no situation where anybody comes out on top where impaired driving is concerned. When you make a decision to drive while impaired, you’re putting not only your own life, but the lives of every other driver on the road in jeopardy.”

Davis recommends these simple tips to prevent drunk driving.

“These suggestions are not just for this holiday, but can be applied to any other holiday or special event,” he added.

- Plan a safe way home before the fun begins.
- Before drinking, designate a sober driver.
- If you’re impaired, use a taxi or call a sober friend or family member.
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don’t hesitate to contact the Milledgeville Police Department at 478-414-4000.
- If you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take your friend’s keys and help your friend make other arrangements to get to where he or she is going safely.

Operation Zero Tolerance also coincides with the June H.E.A.T. initiative. Milledgeville H.E.A.T. is a 4-month program focused on traffic enforcement of high speed, aggressive and distracted driving.

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