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NEWS RELEASE

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This St. Patrick's Day, Plan Before You Party *Remember: Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*

Lake in the Hills, 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."

In addition to looking for alcohol and cannabis-impaired drivers, the Lake in the Hills Police Department will be stepping up seat belt enforcement, particularly at night when seat belt usage rates are lowest. Speeding, distracted driving and all traffic laws will be strictly enforced.

"Before celebrating St. Patrick's Day this year, decide whether you'll drink or you'll drive, or whether you'll use cannabis or you'll drive," Officer Amanda Schmitt, the Lake in the Hills Public Information Officer said. "If you choose to drink or use cannabis, designate a sober, reliable driver to get you home safely."

"We want everyone to enjoy St. Patrick's Day, but safe driving is everyone's responsibility." Schmitt continued.

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.

Any criminal or traffic complaint(s) that have been filed against any individual(s) named herein are only an accusation. All defendant(s) are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. All inquiries regarding this press release are to be directed to the Public Information Officer at 847-658-5676 or communityrelations@lith.org unless otherwise noted.

Other tips for a safe St. Patrick's Day and weekend:

- Remember, you can be held liable and prosecuted if someone you serve is involved in an impaired driving crash.
- Make sure your guests designate a sober driver in advance or help arrange ride-sharing with other sober drivers.
- Serve food and include non-alcoholic beverages at the party.
- Keep the phone numbers for local cab companies handy or use ride share apps to get yourself home safe.
- Designate a sober driver before the party begins and give that person your keys.
- If you do not have a designated driver, ask a sober friend for a ride home, call a carbide-share company, sober friend or family member to pick you up.
- Do not let friends/family drink/consume and drive.
- Always buckle up.

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.

For more information, please contact Officer Amanda Schmitt, the Public Information Officer, at communityrelations@lith.org or 847-658-5676.

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