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NORTHBOROUGH POLICE RECEIVE STATE GRANT TO INCREASE IMPAIRED DRIVING PATROLS “Drive sober or get pulled over” Campaign urges Drivers to Plan Ahead for a Sober Ride

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northborough, MA-August 10, 2018- The Northborough Police Department will increase impaired driving patrols on local roads with grant funds from the Highway Safety Division of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS). Northborough Police will join local departments across the state as well as the Massachusetts State Police in the national *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* enforcement mobilization and public information campaign.

This year’s campaign will urge drivers drinking alcohol or using marijuana and other drugs to plan ahead and designate a sober driver, use a ride-share service or take public transportation.

“Getting behind the wheel after drinking alcohol, using marijuana or both is one of the most dangerous things drivers can do,” said Jeff Larason, Director of the Highway Safety Division. “A little planning can save your life or someone else’s. Regret or remorse won’t bring someone back.”

Massachusetts Data:

- Marijuana or marijuana-type drugs were the most prevalent types of drugs found in people killed in crashes from 2011 to 2016.
- From 2015 to 2016, alcohol impaired driving fatalities increased 9 percent (109 to 119)
- From 2011-2015, 82 percent of impaired drivers in fatal crashes were men.
- From 2011-2015, 45 percent of all alcohol-related driver fatalities were ages 21 to 34.

National Data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

- Approximately one-third of all traffic crash fatalities in the United States involve drunk drivers. On average, more than 10,000 people have died each year (2012-2016) in drunk-driving crashes. To put it in perspective, that’s equal to about 20 jumbo jets crashing, with no survivors.
- In 2016, almost one in five children (14 and younger) killed in traffic crashes were killed in drunk-driving crashes. Fifty-four percent of the time, it was the child’s own driver who was drunk.
- Drugs were present in 43 percent of the fatally-injured drivers with a known test results in 2015, more frequently than alcohol was present.
- NHTSA’s 2013-2014 roadside survey found drugs in 22 percent of all drivers both on weekend nights and on weekdays.
- Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)-the chemical responsible for most of marijuana’s psychological effects-slows reaction times, impairs cognitive performance, and makes it more difficult for drivers to keep a steady position in their lane.
- Mixing alcohol and marijuana may dramatically produce effects greater than either drug on its own.