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Montco Sheriff Bono and D.A. Ferman target drunk drivers with new DUI Task Force
Overnight raid yields 10 DUI offenders

Norristown, Pa., (December 22, 2014) –The Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office and District Attorney’s DUI Unit have formed a joint DUI Task Force in hopes of saving lives, by getting drunk drivers off of the road. In an overnight raid, the DUI Task Force targeted approximately 40 names from a list of almost 1,000 DUI offenders, who have either failed to appear for court or have avoided serving time in prison for driving under the influence of alcohol or other substances.

The operation covered towns including Abington, Norristown, Souderton, Pottstown and Spring City. Out of the ten that were arrested, one was sent immediately to prison on parole violations and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. Three of the offenders were wanted on DUI charges in other counties. One male offender had previously been involved in a car crash with a blood alcohol level of .336. A female offender had been charged with endangering the life of a child because she had an 8 year-old in the car when she was driving under the influence.

“We are happy to partner with the District Attorney’s Office on this important project,” said Sheriff Russell Bono. “Our part is to make sure that those who have been avoiding the court system are brought in and held responsible for their actions, and to hopefully avoid additional fatalities due to these drunk drivers.”

Some of the cases go back to 2006 and include many repeat offenders. Over the past five years there have been 2,121 deaths statewide and 72 fatalities in Montgomery County due to drunk drivers. The damage doesn’t stop at life and property losses. Increased insurance rates, higher taxes due to legal, law enforcement, and medical and public property costs, have cost Pennsylvania taxpayers billions of dollars.

One particular case involved a female defendant who had moved to Florida in order to avoid punishment. She was recently found and extradited back to Pennsylvania to serve a one-year sentence.

“The goal of our DUI Court program is to take dangerous drivers off the road and to save lives. The faster the court system can address open DUI cases and provide defendants access to appropriate treatment and intervention, the more likely we are to prevent the tragic loss of life that far too often accompanies drunk or drugged driving. The DUI Task Force will primarily target those high-risk offenders who accumulate multiple DUIs and continue driving, as well as those who ignore the mandates of the Court,” said Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman.

Bono said the MCSO will be using regularly scheduled social media postings of DUI offenders in order to draw them out of the woodwork. Last week a Domestic Relations Office’s Most Wanted defendant was located and picked up within 30 minutes of his picture being posted on a news station website.

“As always, we encourage people to avoid the embarrassment of being picked up or having their picture on our social media pages by turning themselves in to the Sheriff’s Office,” said Bono.

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Follow the Montgomery County District Attorney’s Office on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Montgomery-County-District-Attorneys-Office/96910904678> and Twitter @montcopada

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