



Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROCKFORD TOPS POLICE DEPARTMENTS FOR MOST DUI ARRESTS

AURORA HAS IMPRESSIVE INCREASE IN DUI ARRESTS

Schaumburg, July 11, 2019: DUI arrests and other law enforcement efforts are the most significant deterrents to impaired driving. The Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAIM) is pleased to release the results of our Annual Illinois DUI Arrest Survey for 2018. AAIM has conducted this survey, which is funded by a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation, for 29 years.

Since 1990, AAIM has conducted an annual survey of Illinois police departments to determine how many DUI arrests they make and to give recognition to the most productive departments and police officers. Nearly 700 police agencies were surveyed with 81% responding. AAIM not only praises these departments and individual officers, but we also continue to encourage them to keep up the fight against drunk driving.

The Rockford Police Department is first in the state in DUI arrests among municipal departments with 552 arrests for 2018. (Because of its size, Chicago is in its own category.) This department has consistently ranked within the top eight departments in AAIM's survey since 2007. "Impaired driving has been and will remain a high priority for the Rockford Police Department. We are proud to consistently be one of the top agencies for combating DUI and will continue to strive to make our roadways safer by arresting those who choose to drive intoxicated or under the influence of drugs," states Rockford Police Chief, Daniel O'Shea.

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In 2018, Aurora was second with 446 arrests, Decatur (391), Elgin (374), Cicero (315), Carol Stream (280), Elmhurst (277), Lombard (277), Naperville (261), Bloomington (244) and Springfield (233). “DUI enforcement needs to be a priority throughout the state, and today with many people arrested for driving under the influence of drugs or a controlled substance, the priority for law enforcement is even higher,” said AAIM Executive Director, Rita Kreslin.

The biggest increase in arrests among the top departments was in Aurora (36.8%) where DUI arrests jumped significantly in 2018 compared to 2017. Other municipalities with increases from 2017 to 2018 are Bloomington (30.5%), Elmhurst (29.4%), and Rockford (12.7%).

The highest DUI arrest rate in the state among departments making at least 200 arrests was Lombard, which had 5.49 arrests per sworn officer. Since 2013, Lombard has been one of the top ten departments in DUI arrests per officer. This small department continues their significant impact in saving lives. The second highest rate of 4.98 was in Fairview Heights. Arrests per officer are an indicator of a department’s emphasis on DUI enforcement and are a measure that can be used to compare smaller departments.

Arrests made by the Chicago Police decreased by 7.2% in 2018 (1,840) compared to 2017 (1,982), Illinois State Police arrests decreased by 3.7% in 2018 (5,038) compared to 2017 (5,234). The sheriff’s department reporting the most DUI arrests was Cook County (381), while Winnebago (361), DeKalb (283), McLean (281) and McHenry (262) Counties round out the top five sheriff departments.

Illinois’ Top Cop with 192 DUI arrests is Illinois State Police Trooper Lucas Sniady. AAIM also commends Chicago Police Officer Elliot Tupayachi, with 168 DUI arrests, and Investigator Andrew Hartman, Rockford Police, who arrested 166 drunk drivers, for their lifesaving efforts.

“AAIM has great respect for all these officers and departments for their aggressive DUI enforcement. We are grateful for their willingness to put forth the extra effort in removing impaired drivers from our roads,” said Kreslin.

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“While the progress is encouraging, the battle to eliminate impaired driving is far from over. Increased enforcement efforts is essential for prevention, including law enforcement training, public awareness strategies, proper prosecution and adjudication to prevent deaths and injuries caused by chemically impaired or distracted operators of any motor vehicle or watercraft” said Kreslin.

AAIM is an Illinois-only citizen activist group founded in 1982 by victims of drunk driving. Prevention, victim advocacy, and legislation encompass the mission of AAIM, a recognized Illinois expert on these issues. The survey provides a valuable service to Illinois citizens by encouraging them to compare the DUI enforcement record of their local police department with that of other communities. As a result, public pressure can be applied, where needed, to encourage DUI enforcement as a priority.

A detailed listing of survey results and participating departments is available at: www.aaim1.org

Questions? – email: anita@aaim1.org

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