



Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists

Woodfield Grove, Suite 131
Phone (847) 240-0027
Fax (847) 240-0028

870 East Higgins Road

Schaumburg, IL 60173
Toll free (888) 240-0027
www.aaim1.org

For more information contact:

Rita Kreslin
(847) 240-0027

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROCKFORD TOPS POLICE DEPARTMENTS FOR MOST DUI ARRESTS

GURNEE HAS IMPRESSIVE INCREASE IN DUI ARRESTS

Schaumburg, June 27, 2018: 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 2017. AAIM has conducted this survey, which is funded by a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation, for 28 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 490 arrests for 2017. (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. "One of the top priorities for the Rockford Police Department is to keep our roads safe. Arresting those who drive intoxicated or under the influence of drugs is one way we accomplish that. Our ultimate goal is that our consistent presence on the roadway will encourage people to drive sober and safely," states Chief, Daniel O'Shea.

Page 2 – AAIM DUI Survey

In 2017, Elgin was second with 418 arrests, Decatur (391), Cicero (341), Aurora (326), Lombard (313), Carol Stream (291), Springfield (288), Naperville (271) and Normal (246). “Departments that make more DUI arrests don’t necessarily pinpoint or calculate more drunk drivers in Illinois communities, said Rita Kreslin. “The one benefit is additional active enforcement in municipalities and counties which aides in targeting impaired drivers across the entire state.”

The biggest increase in arrests among the top departments was in Gurnee (40.7%) where DUI arrests jumped significantly in 2017 compared to 2016. Other municipalities with increases from 2016 to 2017 are Aurora (39.3%), Lombard (34.3%), Springfield (25.2%) and Orland Park (17.4%).

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 23.5% in 2017 (1,982) compared to 2016 (2,592), Illinois State Police arrests decreased by 6.9% in 2017 (5,234) compared to 2016 (5,619). The sheriff’s department reporting the most DUI arrests was Winnebago County (571), while Lake (254), Cook (250), McHenry (249) and McLean (237) Counties round out the top five sheriff departments.

Illinois’ Top Cop with 208 DUI arrests is Illinois State Police Trooper Eric David. AAIM also commends Chicago Police Officer Timothy Walter, with 167 DUI arrests, and Officer Benjamin McGill, Springfield Police, who arrested 132 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 drunk drivers from our roads,” said Kreslin.

Page 3 – AAIM DUI Survey

“While the progress is encouraging, the battle to eliminate driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is far from over. AAIM is concerned about the drug use of drivers and the risks drugs pose to crash involvement and traffic safety. The complex problem of reducing impaired driving has many facets, including law enforcement training, public awareness strategies, proper prosecution and adjudication to help prevent the senselessness of impaired motor vehicle crashes.” 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

###