



## **Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **ROCKFORD TOPS POLICE DEPARTMENTS FOR MOST DUI ARRESTS**

### **ELGIN HAS HUGE INCREASE IN DUI ARRESTS**

**Schaumburg, June 27, 2017:** 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 2016. AAIM has conducted this survey, which is funded by a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation, for 27 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 459 arrests for 2016. (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 2016, Decatur was second with 401 arrests, Elgin (365), Naperville (312), Carol Stream (305), Cicero (305), Bloomington (300), Normal (239), Aurora (234) and Lombard (233). “As we acknowledge the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the landmark bill lowering the state’s illegal BAC from .10 to .08, we recognize the progress made to help eliminate the devastation caused by impaired driving in Illinois,” said Rita Kreslin, AAIM Executive Director. “Focused efforts and cooperation of law enforcement agencies, traffic safety advocates and communities have helped to prevent crashes and save lives.”

The biggest increase in arrests among the top departments was in Elgin (34.7%) where DUI arrests jumped significantly in 2016 compared to 2015. Other municipalities with increases from 2015 to 2016 are Bloomington (31.0%), Lombard (13.1%), Joliet (11.6%) and Oak Lawn (2.3%).

The highest DUI arrest rate in the state among departments making at least 200 arrests was Carol Stream, which had 5.17 arrests per sworn officer. Since 2007, Carol Stream has been one of the top three departments in DUI arrests per officer. This small department continues their significant impact in saving lives. The second highest rate of 4.77 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 21.8% in 2016 (2,592) compared to 2015 (3,315), Illinois State Police arrests decreased by 14.7% in 2016 (5,619) compared to 2015 (6,584). The sheriff’s department reporting the most DUI arrests was Winnebago County (471), while Lake (311), DeKalb (225), Cook (221) and Macon (205) Counties round out the top five sheriff departments.

Illinois State Police Trooper Eric David was Illinois’ Top Cop with 297 DUI arrests. AAIM also commends the life-saving efforts of Chicago Police Officer Timothy Walter, who arrested 210 drunk drivers, and ISP Trooper Lucas Sniady, who arrested 196 drunk drivers.

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“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.

“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](http://www.aaim1.org)

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