



COUNTY of GALVESTON

Criminal District Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DISTRICT ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES
NO-REFUSAL OPERATIONS FOR SPRING BREAK WEEKENDS
AND ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

GALVESTON, TX – Galveston County Criminal District Attorney Jack Roady announced today that law enforcement agencies across Galveston County will be working together to conduct No Refusal Operations for both upcoming weekends of Spring Break (including March 13-15 and March 20-22) and St. Patrick's Day (March 17).

According to the Texas Department of Transportation, there were more than 24,000 impaired-driving traffic crashes in Texas in 2014, resulting in 2,292 serious injuries and 969 deaths. Of those crashes, 54 percent involved drivers under the influence of alcohol in the 17-34 age group. In 2013 and 2014, Texas saw more than 30 deaths per year during the Spring Break period as a result of impaired driving.

In Texas, anyone driving with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 grams per deciliter or higher is considered legally impaired. Under the No Refusal program, police officers may seek blood search warrants for offenders who are arrested for DWI and refuse the officer's request for blood alcohol testing. Blood samples collected can be used as evidence in the DWI cases.

A DWI arrest and conviction in Texas can cost \$17,000 or more: fees include car towing and impoundment, bail, attorney fees, court costs, hearing and fees to regain and retain a driver's license, DWI fines, probation costs, fees for extended proof of insurance, plus insurance rate hikes.

Local judges will be available to make probable cause determinations and authorize the blood search warrants. Prosecutors and nurses will also work through the night to assist police officers with these investigations.

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