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**LABOR DAY NO REFUSAL ARRESTS
DECREASE OVER PREVIOUS TWO YEARS**

GALVESTON, TX – Criminal District Attorney Jack Roady announced today that a total of four DWI arrests were processed through the No Refusal operations conducted county-wide during Labor Day weekend. This is a significant decrease from the last two years, where a total of 14 arrests were made during the same weekend in 2014 and 19 arrests made in 2013.

District Attorney Roady explained that several factors may have contributed to the drop in No-Refusal arrests. One was the number of drivers who consented to provide either breath or blood samples: seven drivers were arrested after providing samples over the legal limit, and these arrests were made outside of the No-Refusal program.

Another factor contributing to the decrease is the increased implementation of the “STRIKE” program throughout the county. The “Safety Through Rapid Investigation of Key Evidence” program allows officers making DWI stops to speak to judges remotely, through video-conferencing using laptops and tablets, and to electronically submit search warrants for blood evidence. The STRIKE program has been credited with saving officers valuable time in obtaining search warrants to obtain and preserve evidence for trial while protecting the constitutional rights of the accused.

The STRIKE program is yet another tool used in the law enforcement community to keep the streets of Galveston County free from intoxicated drivers. Unlike the No Refusal program, which is utilized on high-traffic holiday weekends and events, the STRIKE program provides officers the ability to request search warrants 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

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