



**Kevin Petroff**  
First Assistant

**Johnny Freeze**  
Chief Investigator

**Zonia Wilturner-  
Smith**  
Chief Executive  
Officer

# Press Release

For Immediate Release

February 11, 2016

## MARDI GRAS NO REFUSAL OPERATIONS SEE SLIGHT DECREASE IN ARRESTS

GALVESTON, TX – Criminal District Attorney Jack Roady today announced the results of this year's Mardi Gras No Refusal Operations in Galveston County. A total of 17 DWI arrests were processed through the No Refusal operations conducted county-wide during Mardi Gras. This is a decrease over last year's program. A total of 21 No Refusal DWI arrests were made during Mardi Gras in 2015, while 17 arrests were made in 2014 and 18 arrests were made in 2013.

This year's No Refusal operations were assisted by officers' use of the STRIKE program in connection with two DWI arrests. Under the Safety Through Rapid Investigation of Key Evidence (STRIKE) program, an officer may telecommunicate from the crime scene with a judge, via the internet; the officer can apply for a search warrant to obtain an intoxicated driver's blood sample. The judge can then review the search warrant application, make a probable cause determination, and then transmit the signed warrant back to the officer for further action.

As the STRIKE program becomes more widely available for all agencies in Galveston County, use of the traditional No Refusal programs will continue to decrease. The District Attorney's Office and Galveston County's IT Department are working with local judges and law enforcement agencies to make the STRIKE program available to all officers as quickly as possible. Once implemented countywide, the STRIKE program will allow officers to obtain search warrants for blood samples 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

**Contact:**

Galveston County  
Justice Center  
600 59<sup>th</sup> Street  
Suite 1001  
Galveston, Texas  
(409)766-2355  
(409)766-2290 (fax)