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# Press 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 his office will be working with law enforcement agencies across Galveston County in sponsoring No-Refusal operations during both upcoming weekends of Spring Break and St. Patrick's Day (covering March 11-13 and March 17-20).

According to the Texas Department of Transportation, in 2015 there were 13,563 crashes in Texas involving young drivers (17-34 years of age) who were driving under the influence of alcohol, which led to 1,286 serious injuries and 531 fatalities. During the 2015 Spring Break period, there were 459 crashes involving young drivers who were driving under the influence of alcohol, which led to 43 serious injuries and 16 fatalities.

“We hope to reduce these numbers by spreading the word that law enforcement will be out in force to combat drunk driving,” Roady observed.

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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