



Kevin Petroff
First Assistant

Johnny Freeze
Chief Investigator

**Zonia Wiltturner-
Smith**
Chief Executive
Officer

Contact:
Galveston County
Justice Center
600 59th Street
Suite 1001
Galveston, Texas
(409)766-2355
(409)766-2290 (fax)

Press Release

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FOURTH OF JULY WEEKEND DRUNK DRIVING ARRESTS INCREASE UNDER EXPANDED PROGRAM

GALVESTON, TX – Criminal District Attorney Jack Roady announced today that DWI arrests under the Fourth of July weekend's No Refusal operations showed an increase over the last several years.

A total of 15 DWI arrests were processed through the No Refusal operations covering this year's three day holiday weekend. Arrests under Fourth of July No Refusal Operations in the previous two years were as follows: there were 5 arrests in which blood samples were obtained during the two-day operation in 2015 and 4 arrests in which blood samples were obtained during the one-day operation in 2014.

"We anticipated an increase in DWI arrests this year due to the expanded days of No Refusal and the enhanced DWI enforcement operations by the Texas Department of Public Safety," Roady said. "Officers also took advantage of the emerging STRIKE program to process blood search warrant applications from the field."

This year police officers used the STRIKE program to secure blood search warrants in four cases during the No Refusal hours. 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 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 come to an end. 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.

Blood samples collected in these cases will be submitted for analysis at the Department of Public Safety's Crime Lab and the results will be used as evidence during trial.