

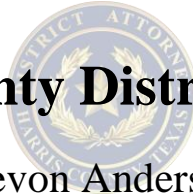
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DWI “No Refusal” Arrests for Fourth of July Weekend

District Attorney Devon Anderson announced today the results from this past weekend’s no refusal initiative. The District Attorney’s Office, the Harris County Sheriff’s Office, the Houston Police Department and surrounding law enforcement agencies joined forces to have more resources available on the Fourth of July weekend to reduce the number of impaired drivers on the road.

The District Attorney’s Office had extra prosecutors on duty to assist law enforcement agencies in filing cases on arrested intoxicated drivers throughout the holiday weekend. Under the no refusal law, a search warrant is issued to draw the blood of any suspected intoxicated driver who refuses to take a breathalyzer test or to give a blood sample. The no refusal initiative started on the evening of Thursday, July 3rd and lasted through the morning of Sunday, July 6th. As of Monday morning, there were at least 161 alcohol-related incidents and there were no intoxication manslaughter cases charged in Harris County during the no refusal initiative.

“Over the holiday weekend, we had a high number of DWI related incidents,” said DA Anderson. “While our office will continue to aggressively prosecute these cases, we will also continue to take a proactive approach to preventing DWI related incidents and fatalities to make Harris County roads safer. Our goal is to continue no refusal initiatives throughout the year to get the message across to not drink and drive.”

In April 2013, the Harris County District Attorney’s Office became one of the first Houston area counties to create a policy enforcing the “no refusal” law every day in addition to providing extra office and county resources to no refusal initiatives periodically around holidays and big events. Over the past three years, during the July 4th weekend the number of alcohol related incidents in Harris County has remained high. In 2011, there were 271 cases, in 2012, there were 158 cases, in 2013, there were 212 cases.