

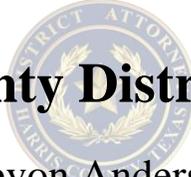
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DWI “No Refusal” Arrests for Labor Day Weekend

District Attorney Devon Anderson announced today the results from this past weekend’s no refusal initiative. The District Attorney’s Office and surrounding law enforcement agencies joined forces to have more resources available on the Labor Day 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 Friday, August 29th and lasted through the morning of Monday, September 1st. As of Tuesday morning, there were at least 171 alcohol-related incidents and there were no intoxication manslaughter cases charged in Harris County during the no refusal initiative. Last year, there were 205 alcohol-related incidents over the Labor Day weekend.

“The DWI arrests from this weekend are lower than they were last year and so far there are no intoxication manslaughter charges filed in Harris County,” said DA Anderson. “It seems our no refusal initiatives are sending a message to the public that drinking and driving is never an acceptable combination. Our office will continue to aggressively prosecute these cases and to take a proactive approach to preventing DWI related incidents and fatalities. However, I urge the public to continue to remind their loved ones 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.