

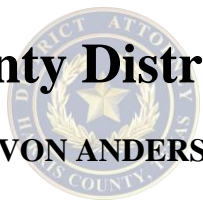
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## **Harris County District Attorney**

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# **DA's Office Prepares for No Refusal on Halloween Weekend**

*DA's Office will have extra staff working on Halloween and through the weekend*

District Attorney Devon Anderson announced today that her office will have extra prosecutors on duty to assist area police in the enforcement of DWI no refusal laws this Halloween weekend. Additional prosecutors will be working to file cases on arrested intoxicated drivers on the evening of Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup> through the morning of Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

"With Halloween falling on a Friday this year, we expect more people to be on the roads this weekend. We will have extra prosecutors on duty to help take intoxicated drivers off the roads more quickly," said DA Anderson. "Please make responsible choices that will keep everyone safe on our roadways. If you drink and drive, don't be surprised to find an officer pulling you over and then taking you to get your blood drawn if he believes you are intoxicated."

Under the No Refusal Initiative, a search warrant will be issued to draw the blood of any suspected intoxicated driver who refuses a breathalyzer or to give a blood sample voluntarily. In April 2013, the Harris County District Attorney's office became one of the first Houston Area counties to enforce a no-refusal policy every day.

"The goal of the No Refusal initiative is to make sure that everyone stays safe during their celebrations and makes good decisions during their night. Be sure to plan ahead and make getting home safely a part of your plans for the evening," said Alison Baimbridge, Chief of the Vehicular Crimes Division in the Harris County DA's Office.

Harris County continues to top the list of counties nationwide with the most DWI-related fatalities. The goal of the no refusal initiatives is to reduce the number of impaired drivers on the road, to lower the number of DWI-related crimes, and to save lives.