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NEWS RELEASE

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SHERIFF'S OFFICE PARTICIPATES IN "DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER" CAMPAIGN

Monmouth County: Sheriff Shaun Golden is urging people to "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" as law enforcement officers will be putting the brakes on drunk drivers starting Dec. 8 through Jan. 1.

"We want everyone to enjoy the holiday season, but, law enforcement will be on the lookout. If you are going to drink, don't drive," said Sheriff Shaun Golden. "Sobriety checks will be set up throughout Monmouth County and motorists will be stopped in an effort to maintain the utmost of safety."

The national "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign raises awareness about the dangers of impaired driving through enforcement and education. According to the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety, since Jan. 1, 2017 there have been 572 fatalities on New Jersey roadways with 20 percent of motor vehicle fatalities in the state being alcohol related.

In an effort to avoid presenting a danger to yourself or others, it's important to follow these safety tips:

- Before going out, designate a driver who will not consume any alcohol the entire night.
- DO NOT DRIVE if you are impaired. Call a cab, a sober friend or family member.
- If you don't have a ride, stay where you are. If you live nearby, do not attempt to walk or ride a bicycle home.

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- If you see someone about to get behind the wheel or on a motorcycle after they have been drinking, take their keys and find them a ride with someone who is sober.
- Always buckle up, every ride. It's your best defense against an impaired driver.
- Under no circumstances should adults provide alcohol to a minor or allow anyone under 21 to consume alcohol while at their home.

"Any fatality or crash on our roads is one too many," said Sheriff Golden. "Enforcing the law and educating the public about the dangers of drinking and driving raises awareness and helps keep our roadways safer."

Fourteen law enforcement agencies in Monmouth County received grants for this program through the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety.

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