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# Winnebago County Sheriff's Department



## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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### **Winnebago County Sheriff's Office plans stepped-up traffic enforcement for July Fourth celebrations**

*Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over, Drive High Get a DUI*

**Winnebago County, IL.** – As Independence Day approaches, Winnebago County Sheriff's Office is gearing up for increased traffic enforcement to ensure the safety of all residents and motorists. From June 21 through the early-morning hours of July 8, our officers will be working tirelessly to keep impaired drivers off the road and ticketing unbuckled motorists.

"It's a straightforward message: If you're behind the wheel, stay sober. Don't drink, use marijuana, or consume any other impairing substances before or when driving," said Sheriff Gary Caruana. "Our officers will be on duty around the clock, dedicated to enforcing traffic laws and, most importantly, saving lives."

Driving under the influence not only poses a grave risk to oneself but also endangers passengers and fellow road users. The financial and human costs of a DUI are immeasurable. The decision to avoid driving impaired is simple and could spare lives.

Winnebago County Sheriff's Office is collaborating with the Illinois State Police and over 200 local police and sheriffs' departments in this unified effort to enhance statewide enforcement during this period.

To ensure a fun and safe holiday celebration, we urge everyone to follow these tips:

- Designate a sober driver before heading out.
- Prevent friends and family members from driving under the influence.
- If you find yourself impaired, use safe alternatives such as taxis, public transit and ride-sharing apps, or contact a sober friend or family member for a ride.
- Use designated driver programs available in your community.
- Report suspected drunk drivers promptly to law enforcement by pulling over and dialing 911.
- Ensure that all passengers in your vehicle buckle up. It's not only the law, but also a crucial defense against impaired drivers.