



# Winnebago County Sheriff's Department



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## News Release

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### **Steering clear of tragedy**

*Impaired driving campaign makes holidays safer*

**Winnebago County, IL**— This holiday season, Winnebago County Sheriff's Office teamed up with the Illinois Department of Transportation and law enforcement agencies statewide for the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign, targeting impaired drivers from Dec. 13 through Jan. 2. The result? A safer holiday season with 4 impaired driving arrests, 4 traffic stops, 9 Citations, 1 Traffic Arrest and 1 Felony arrest.

During the campaign, Winnebago County Sheriff's Office intensified its enforcement efforts deploying additional patrol units to deter risky behaviors and catch offenders.

"We can't stress it enough: Impaired driving is a deadly gamble," said Sheriff Gary Caruana. "It's illegal, it's irresponsible and it puts lives at risk – yours, your passengers' and everyone else's on the road. Campaigns like 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over' empower us to address this issue directly and send a clear message. If you're under the influence of alcohol, cannabis or anything else, don't drive."

The enforcement initiative, administered by IDOT and funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, underscores the collective commitment to safer roadways, particularly during high-risk times like the holidays.

"This effort isn't just about enforcement," said Sheriff Gary Caruana. "It's about protecting lives and ensuring every celebration ends safely for everyone."

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