



*SAFE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM OF PICKAWAY COUNTY*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**DATE: August 18, 2011**

**TO: Circleville Herald**

**FROM: Safe Communities of Pickaway County**

**RE: "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" begins August 19th**

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A familiar slogan that depicts the Impaired Driving National Enforcement Crackdown has been updated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The time frame for law enforcement to increase patrols prior to and during the Labor Day Holiday, better known as "Over The Limit, Under Arrest", is now touting the slogan "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over". Although the updated call to drivers to not get behind the wheel impaired has a catchy sound to it, the intentions of law enforcement to be on the look-out for impaired driving is serious.

The Pickaway County Sheriff's Office, the recipient of a "High Visibility Enforcement Overtime" (HVEO) grant through the Ohio Department of Public Safety, will join other law enforcement agencies in Pickaway County to crackdown on a crime that took 10,839 lives nationwide in 2009. This number accounts for an average fatality every 48 minutes. For this reason, nearly 10,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide will support the intensive crackdown that runs from August 19 through September 5, 2011.

"My Office fully supports 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over', and my deputies will join the many other law enforcement agencies across the state in an effort to cut down on impaired driving", stated Sheriff Dwight E. Radcliff. "Impaired Driving is not an accident, and it is an epidemic of careless disregard for human life."

Safe Communities of Pickaway County notes that Impaired Driving is number two in high risk behaviors found in fatalities in Pickaway County for the year 2010. Lack of seat belt use

still remains number one over a three year period. The concern with impaired driving, however, is the risk of injuring or killing innocent victims.

“Our concern at Safe Communities is that this behavior often affects more than just the driver of a motor vehicle who chooses to get behind the wheel impaired”, stated Director Teresa C. Carper. “All too often the innocent and law abiding citizen suffers the consequences of this deadly choice.”

Safe Communities plans several public awareness campaigns during the time period to remind drivers to make wise decisions each and every time they get behind the wheel.

For more information on this safe driving campaign, visit [www.StopImpairedDriving.org](http://www.StopImpairedDriving.org) .