

PRESSRELEASE

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Law Enforcement Officers Step Up Fight Against Impaired Driving

Mayor Oberlie announced that the Michigan City Police Department will join other Hoosier law enforcement officers as they step up their fight against impaired driving on Indiana roadways. This effort began on August 27th and will run through September 12, 2004.

This effort, part of a coast-to-coast impaired driving crackdown sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, will stretch throughout the Labor Day Holiday. The enforcement campaign will be accompanied by a statewide media message warning motorists of the consequences of impaired driving.

Mayor Oberlie stated, "Last year, more than 17,000 people lost their lives in alcohol-related crashes in the United States, and a majority of those deaths occurred in crashes involving at least one person whose blood alcohol content was greater than 0.08 percent, currently the legal driving limit in all 50 states."

In 2002, Indiana recorded its lowest number of alcohol-related fatalities since the federal government began collecting data on the issue more than two decades ago. Still, Mayor Oberlie says, "I believe we can do better."

Chief Ben Neitzel states, "Michigan City Police Officers will strictly enforce "Driving under the influence" during this holiday weekend, as we always do, but we need your help. **DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE!**"

Mayor Oberlie is encouraging all citizens to drink responsibly and **NOT DRIVE**. "When at a cook-out or party, choose a designated driver. By making sure a loved one gets home safely we can prevent a tragedy."