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East Haven Mayor Announces Traffic Safety Initiative Made Possible with Connecticut Department of Transportation Grant

East Haven, CT - Mayor April Capone Almon is pleased to announce that the town of East Haven has obtained grant funding from the Connecticut Department of Transportation. The Comprehensive DUI Enforcement Program Grant totaling \$15,600.00 is the first of its kind in the town in over a decade. This follows the Mayor's initiative aimed at improving the safety and quality of life for all residents. The Mayor explained her motivation by stating, "In preparation for countless motorists hitting the highways and local streets while under the influence, East Haven Police Department will take a proactive approach to improve safety for the citizen's of East Haven. This funding is earmarked for DUI enforcement including checkpoints here in East Haven." The Mayor's Traffic Safety Initiative campaign will raise public awareness about drunk driving, in addition but not limited to aggressively enforcing racing, speeding, reckless driving, drinking while driving, driving under the influence, hazardous moving violations, and non compliance with seat belt laws.

This grant, obtained on behalf of the Police Department by Mayor Capone Almon's office staff member Erica Berg, focuses on the aggressive enforcement and the commitment of personnel to reduce and/or eliminate driving while under the influence. In research performed by Berg, there were sixty-eight alcohol related incidents in East Haven in 2007. Fifty-eight of these happened between Thursday-Sunday, already identified as local and national high risk days and times. Forty-nine incidents happened along targeted areas which are the suggested areas of future sobriety checkpoints. Capone Almon went on to discuss the town's strategy for attacking this problem "By identifying times and areas of the Town affected by this activity, utilizing effective police tactics and working in conjunction with neighboring towns The East Haven Police Department shall enhance the Quality of Life, reduce "calls for service" and coordinate displacement of these violations. These actions will ultimately take drunk drivers off of the road and make our streets safer for all to travel."

She then noted "Last year's statistics should be a wake up call for everyone about drunk driving. It should remind us all that impaired driving remains a serious problem on our roadways," said Mayor April Capone Almon. "The fight to eliminate drunk driving is far from over but we will continue to prosecute drivers that endangering the citizens of East Haven by failing to act responsibly." This effort will be combined with other highway safety campaigns such as "click it or ticket". This grant will present 5/7/2008 the opportunity to have the East Haven Police Department perform at least six checkpoints, which will include checking for sobriety, seat belts, and other motor vehicle infractions. The East Haven Police Department will use sobriety checkpoints on various dates between May 22, 2008 and September 1, 2008.