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FREE HOLIDAY CAB RIDES OFFERED **THROUGHOUT GREATER WASHINGTON** **TO THWART DRUNK DRIVING**

Washington, DC, Dec. 3 – Combating that time of year classified by U.S. Government officials as “especially dangerous due to holiday celebrations and frequent parties,”* a local nonprofit organization announced today that free cab rides will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area during the winter holidays.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the annual Holiday SoberRide® program will operate between **10:00 pm and 6:00 am each evening between Friday, December 12, 2014 and Thursday, January 1, 2015** as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period.

During the evening hours, between December 12th and January 1st, Washington-metropolitan area residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number **1-800-200-TAXI** and be afforded a no-cost (up to \$ 30 fare), safe way home. (AT&T wireless users can dial **#WRAP** for the same service.)

“Last December, nearly 1,900 (1,877) Greater Washington residents did the right thing and availed themselves of this lifesaving service rather than possibly driving home impaired,” said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP’s President. ***“For SoberRide’s hours of operation during just last New Year’s Eve, such ridership (463) translated into the removal of a would-be drunk driver from our shared roadways every 62-seconds.”***

SoberRide is offered in the: District of Columbia; throughout the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George’s; and throughout the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, (eastern) Loudoun and Prince William. In these areas, local taxicab companies will be providing this no-cost service to local residents age 21 and older who otherwise may have attempted to drive home after drinking.

Since 1993, WRAP’s SoberRide program has provided 61,002 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

Sponsors of this year’s Holiday SoberRide offering include: AAA Mid-Atlantic, Anheuser-Busch, Diageo, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, Giant Food, MillerCoors, Red Top Cab of Arlington, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington,

Volkswagen Group of America and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association.

Participating taxicab companies include: Alexandria Yellow Cab; Barwood; Fairfax Yellow Cab; Loudoun Yellow Cab; Northern Virginia Checker Cab; Red Top Cab; Silver Cab of Prince George's County; Yellow Cab of D.C.; and Yellow Cab of Prince William County.

Founded in 1982, the nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program is an award-winning public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths consistently lower than the national average.

More information about WRAP's SoberRide initiative can be found at **www.soberride.com**.

**Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, see:
<http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/CAMPAIGNS/Drunk+Driving/Buzzed+Driving+is+Drunk+Driving/Holiday+Season/2014+News+Release>*

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