

THE WRAP REPORTER

WASHINGTON REGIONAL ALCOHOL PROGRAM

FALL 2007

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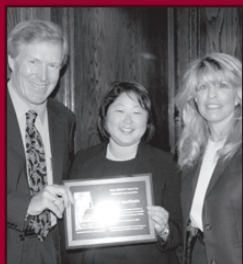
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WRAP's fight against both drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area takes the nonprofit organization to Annapolis, the District of Columbia and Richmond in championing public policies aiming to create effective deterrent to both impaired driving and teen drinking. What follows is a summary of WRAP's 2007 legislative highlights in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.



WRAP President Kurt Erickson (second row, far right) at Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley's signing into law legislation creating Maryland's 'DUI Task Force.' (Photo courtesy of Maryland's Governor Office)

WRAP's fight against both drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area takes the nonprofit organization to Annapolis, the District of Columbia and Richmond in championing public policies aiming to create effective deterrent to both impaired driving and teen drinking. What follows is a summary of WRAP's 2007 legislative highlights in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.

MARYLAND

"Drunk Driving Task Force Long Overdue," proclaimed the headline in *The Washington Examiner* (4-11-07) relative to the singular, priority, legislative item of both WRAP and the Maryland Impaired Driving Coalition (of which WRAP is a member) passing both Maryland's House of Delegates and Senate on unanimous votes and being signed into law by Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley (D).

This legislative item was the creation of a statewide task force to address the issue of impaired driving in Maryland and took the forms of both **House Bill 758** (Dumais, D-Montgomery County) and **Senate Bill 198** (Forehand, D-Montgomery County).

Both cross-filed bills proposed the creation of a "Task Force to Combat Driving Under the Influence of Drugs and Alcohol" and are positioned to both: create both a momentum and set of recommendations overcoming what has been Maryland's piecemeal approach to passing drunk driving laws in the state; as well as address Maryland's recent inability to lower the number of traffic fatalities attributable to alcohol. (According to the University of Maryland's National Study Center for Trauma, Maryland's number of drunk driving deaths on the state's roadways has remained largely unchanged in the last half-decade averaging 245 such fatalities annually).

The fact that drunk driving continues to be one of Maryland's most frequently committed violent crimes and that a similar task force effort hasn't been undertaken in the state in nearly two decades further warrants the top-to-bottom review of Maryland's efforts to combat impaired driving by this son-to-be legislatively-mandated and broad-based, 18-member work group.

While in no way viewed as a panacea to Maryland's continuing impaired driving ills (including that, of its neighboring states, Maryland currently pays the second highest per capita costs for alcohol-related traffic crashes according to the National Study Center for Trauma), a 'DUI task force' in the state should at least provide transparency, overview and recommendations to thwarting a killer which claims a life every 37-hours in the Old Line State.

To that end, WRAP concurs with Governor O'Malley's recent assessment that "this has been a terrific session" (*Associated Press*, 4-10-07).

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WRAP CHAMPIONS DUI TASK FORCE IN MARYLAND & TOUGHER TEEN DRINKING LAWS IN D.C.

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In news of other anti-drunk driving and or underage drinking bills amongst the 800 pieces of legislation passed this session, Maryland lawmakers also sent to the Governor a since signed into law bill seeking to:

- prohibit the use (as well as possession, purchase, transfer or sale) of alcohol without liquid (AWOL) devices (i.e. alcohol inhalers) in the state punishable by a maximum \$1,000 fine (**HB 670, McComas**).

In the negative column, however, anti-drunk driving and or underage drinking bills killed or dying in Annapolis this year included those seeking to:

- penalize persons found guilty of furnishing alcohol to those under 21 with driver's license suspensions (**HB 89, Shewell**);
- outlaw the consumption of alcohol by those under 21 in Frederick County, Maryland (**HB 192, Frederick County Delegation**);
- create a new penalty (up to \$ 1,000 or one year incarceration) for a second refusal of a blood alcohol concentration test (**SB 800, Jacobs**);
- require persons put on parole for alcohol-related crimes to wear alcohol monitoring devices (**HB 1066, Taylor**);
- eliminate the requirement of prosecution to serve notice to a repeat drunk driver that a sentence of enhanced (repeat drunk driver) penalties will be sought (**HB 1063, Taylor**);
- eliminate the requirement that a test for drugs of an impaired driver be directed only by a drug recognition expert (**SB 763, Hooper**);
- and change the current code nomenclature of "life-threatening" to "serious physical" injury as it pertains to alcohol or drug-related crimes (**HB 219, Dumais**).

For these aforementioned drunk driving and underage drinking initiatives, WRAP played a leading role in Annapolis this year by: providing numerous legislative committees with both testimony and substitute bill language; routinely meeting with Legislative branch leadership; routinely meeting also with both Senate and House members; providing resource information; and building public support for these initiatives via WRAP's regularly-issued Legislative Alerts.

In addition, WRAP frequently helped to represent the more than 280-member Maryland Impaired Driving Coalition in Annapolis this year in testimony before both the Maryland House of Delegates' Judiciary Committee as well as the Maryland Senate's Judicial Proceedings Committee.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

"Underage Drinking Still Not a Crime," read the *Washington City Paper* blog headline (5-9-07) relative to WRAP's recent unsuccessful efforts to re-criminalize underage drinking in the District of Columbia.

The path in this effort unfortunately started with the January shooting death of a 17-year-old District of Columbia youth at a northwest nightclub in the city. Following such a tragic

event, District of Columbia Council member Jim Graham (D-Ward 1) invited WRAP to serve on his convened Youth Protection Task Force.

Said task force met five times this spring vetting what was to become Council member Graham's Bill 17-88, "The Protection and Safety of Underage Persons Act of 2007." While Council member Graham's bill looked to both regulate youth in the District's nightclubs as well as allow nightclub owners to confiscate fake I.D.s and directly hire law enforcement professionals, the youth protection bill also contained a much more profound objective and one whose sole interest was to make youth in the District and the unlawful consumption of alcohol mutually exclusive.



WRAP President Kurt Erickson testifying in support of underage drinking legislation before the Council of the District of Columbia's Committee on Public Works and the Environment. (Photo courtesy of DC Office of Cable Television & Telecommunications)

Specifically, Council member Graham's bill provided for the District to rejoin 40 U.S. states in restoring a meaningful deterrent to underage drinking by making the same a criminal offense.

In addition to such legislation enjoying support from a spectrum of entities ranging from anti-teen drinking organizations like WRAP to the Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington to the District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers to local church groups and to the very nightclubs in the city often serving as the last line of defense in DC's effort to deter underage drinking, Council member Graham's bill served as an apt response to the District of Columbia Superior Court's May 25, 2004 ordering of the District to halt its practice of filing criminal charges against teen drinkers in the city thereby decriminalizing underage drinking in Washington, D.C.

Since then, underage persons throughout the District as well as coming in to the city have been distributed virtual "get out of jail free" cards when it comes to either possessing or drinking alcohol in the District and, at best, are given civil infractions for their behavior – the same "behavior" which, as we all know, can have life-ending consequences.

As WRAP testified in support of Council member Graham's "Protection and Safety of Underage Persons Act of 2007" at both the Council of the District of Columbia's Committee on Public Works and the Environment Public Oversight Roundtable in January as well as the

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WRAP CHAMPIONS DUI TASK FORCE IN MARYLAND & TOUGHER TEEN DRINKING LAWS IN D.C.

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same committee's public hearing on the bill in April, youth who drink alcohol participate in other risky behaviors including driving while impaired, riding in a car with a drunk driver and, via impaired judgments about sex and contraception, placing them at increased risk for HIV infection, other sexually-transmitted diseases and unplanned pregnancies. In addition, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism found that young people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol addiction than those who didn't begin drinking until age 21.

Unfortunately, however, and at least publicly bogged-down in the controversy regarding District nightclubs hiring their own law enforcement officers, Council member Graham's youth protection bill was tabled at the Council of the District of Columbia's June 5th meeting. Such is, indeed, unfortunate as such would've greatly strengthened the city's nightclub laws as they apply to youth access but its equally important effort to re-criminalize underage drinking would've surely added some much needed teeth to the District's currently toothless underage drinking laws.

VIRGINIA

The "Washington Regional Alcohol Program...says that despite a number of high profile and deadly teen drinking incidents in the state this winter, legislators at the General Assembly snubbed bills to increase penalties for underage drinkers and the people who help them get their alcohol," reported the Virginia News Network (2-21-07) regarding lawmakers in Virginia's 2007 General Assembly session killing a pair of bills proposing six-month driver's license suspensions for both underage drinkers put on probation in Virginia as well as for those unlawfully providing alcohol to those underage.

This year's "provision" bill (**HB 2860, Moran**) was killed via some parliamentary maneuvering which had Virginia's House of Delegate's Courts of Justice Committee originally pass the measure in a 17-to-two vote only to have the bill re-referred to the committee as a means of killing it. Meanwhile, the bill (**HB 1887, Albo**) mandating minimum driver's license suspension periods for underage drinkers put on probation via a judge's deferred finding (a penalty already applied to those teen drinkers convicted of the crime) was left languishing in the Senate's Courts of Justice Committee after unanimously being passed in Virginia's House of Delegates and following a spirited Senate Courts committee debate on the same.

This reprieve for both teen drinkers and their providers in Virginia came despite the findings of Virginia's Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services' 2005 Virginia Community Youth Survey which found that alcohol is the "most commonly used substance" by Virginia teens and that 76-percent of Virginia's high school seniors and 64-percent of the Commonwealth's 10th graders reported using alcohol. In addition, more than one-quarter (27.8%) of Virginia's 12th graders reported consuming five or more drinks in a row within the reporting period's past two weeks.

However, all was not lost amongst the 3,067 bills introduced in Richmond this session as Virginia General Assembly members sent to Governor Timothy Kaine (D) two WRAP-supported and since signed into law bills each seeking to:

- require convicted drunk drivers with ignition interlock systems to maintain such systems for six months without failing tests prior to their driver's license reinstatement (**HB 3098, Iaquinto**);
- and have the "count" of multiple DUI offenses based on the dates of the actual incidents versus conviction dates (**HB 1890, Albo**).



WRAP President **Kurt Erickson** (left) meeting with **Virginia Governor Tim Kaine**.
(Photo: Robert D. Pierce, LLC)

In addition, Virginia lawmakers also forwarded to the Governor since signed into law bills aiming to further address the crime of boating under the influence (BUI) including those aiming to:

- create a new Class 6 felony penalty for maiming while operating a watercraft while intoxicated (**HB 2978, Bell**);
- and allowing law enforcement more time to obtain tests for BUI (**SB 1314, Reynolds**).

In the negative column, however, 2007 Virginia General Assembly members swiftly squelched measures which sought to:

- increase the jail time sentences (**HB 2329, Gilbert**), eliminate the current ten-year statute of limitations (**HB 2875, McEachin**) as well as mandate special license plates (**HB 2907, Spruill**) for repeat drunk drivers in Virginia;
- create a Class 5 felony penalty for those drunk drivers feloniously eluding police (**HB 1987, Cox**);
- disallow open containers of alcohol in the passenger areas of motor vehicles (**HB 1676, Purkey**);
- allow official highway signs memorializing victims of drunk driving (**HB 2340, Abbitt**);
- and require that blood alcohol concentration (BAC) levels in drunk driving cases be based at the time of testing versus the presumed time of driving (**HB 3049, Albo**).

For these aforementioned drunk driving and underage drinking initiatives, WRAP – and especially WRAP Board member and MADD-Virginia Public Policy Liaison Jeff Levy most notably in support of this year's "time of test" bill (**HB 3049**) – played a key role in Richmond this year by: providing numerous legislative committees with both testimony and substitute bill language; routinely meeting with Executive and Legislative branch leadership; routinely meeting also with both Senate and House members; providing resource information; and building public support for these initiatives via WRAP's regularly-issued Legislative Alerts. ■

WRAP LAUNCHES 2007 CHECKPOINT STRIKEFORCE CAMPAIGNS

Serving as the project director of the public education component for the region's Checkpoint Strikeforce campaigns — a sixth-year effort to combat drunk driving via the increased deployment of sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols in the region — WRAP kicked-off both Maryland and Virginia's 2007 versions of this annual traffic safety campaign in August. The following serves as a summary of this year's efforts.



Media covering a simulated DUI booking at the launch of Maryland's 2007 Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign.

MARYLAND

On August 29th and outside the Howard County Detention Center (the destination of many arrested drunk drivers), Maryland state and local law enforcement officials launched *Checkpoint Strikeforce*, a half-year, high visibility statewide education and enforcement campaign to stop drunk drivers. A key focus of the 2007 campaign is to raise public awareness of the many dangers and consequences of impaired driving including getting arrested or killing someone. Colonel Terrence Sheridan, Secretary of the Maryland State Police, helped kick off the more than half million-dollar campaign.

"There is no excuse for driving under the influence," said Colonel Terrence Sheridan, Superintendent of the Maryland State Police. "DUI enforcement is a top priority in Maryland. We know the danger posed by drunk drivers and we will continue to do all we can to identify and apprehend them."

State and local data was analyzed at the launch event and indicated a 17-percent increase in alcohol-related traffic fatalities in Maryland in 2006. The year prior, however, alcohol-related traffic fatalities in Maryland decreased a total of 18-percent between 2004 and 2005 — the second largest decrease in drunk driving deaths in the nation that year.

In 2006, Maryland law enforcement made more than 25,000 arrests for driving under the influence (DUI) — equivalent to an arrest every 21 minutes — and confiscated more than 15,400 licenses, according to the Maryland Automated Accident Reporting System (MAARS). Last year, more people were arrested in Maryland for drunk driving than the number of people who reside in Bel Air, Chevy Chase, Crisfield and La Plata combined. For the remainder of the year, Maryland State Police and more than 70 local law enforcement agencies will hold a minimum of one sobriety checkpoint or saturation patrol per week across the state.

Studies conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety show that sobriety checkpoints can reduce alcohol-related crashes by as much as 20-percent. Deploying sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols when and where drunk driving is most likely to occur both deters motorists from driving under the influence and arrests those who do so.

In addition to law enforcement efforts, *Checkpoint Strikeforce* employs radio and television ads in combination with other outreach initiatives to remind Marylanders of the many dangers and consequences of impaired driving. Males between the ages of 21 and 35 are the primary target audience. This demographic group is typically harder to reach with public awareness campaigns and statistically represents the highest risk for driving under the influence. Throughout the next four and a half months more than 11,500 ads will run in Maryland and the Washington-metro area.

Maryland drivers are seeing the difference and supporting sobriety checkpoints. A July 2007 public opinion survey of Maryland area drivers conducted for *Checkpoint Strikeforce* by MWR Strategies, found that 89-percent of Maryland drivers support the anti-DUI initiative. In fact, 73-percent of drivers are aware of sobriety checkpoints in their area while more than two-thirds of Maryland drivers (70-percent) perceive drunk drivers as among the most serious dangers they face on the road.



Law enforcement conducting a mock sobriety checkpoint at the launch of Maryland's 2007 Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign

"Our message to drunk and impaired drivers is this: if you drink or use drugs and drive, you'll lose," commented Chief William McMahon, Howard County Police. "If you don't get the message through education, police will make sure you get it through enforcement. Working together, we will make Maryland roads safer."

Checkpoint Strikeforce is supported by a grant from the Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration's Highway Safety Office. The campaign utilizes a two-pronged approach of public education and law enforcement. The statewide efforts of *Checkpoint Strikeforce* coincide with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's national "Drunk driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest." crackdown, which was announced on August 20.

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WRAP LAUNCHES 2007 CHECKPOINT STRIKEFORCE CAMPAIGNS

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Secretary of Maryland State Police, **Colonel Terrence Sheridan** at the launch of Maryland's 2007 Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign.

VIRGINIA

In preparation for countless Virginian motorists hitting the highways for the long Labor Day weekend – historically the third deadliest drunk driving holiday of the year – Checkpoint Strikeforce launched a five-month statewide campaign to raise public awareness about drunk driving. Attorney General Robert McDonnell helped kick off the million-dollar campaign on August 28th atop an overpass of one of Virginia's main arteries, Interstate 95.



Virginia State Police **Major George Daniels, Jr.** (along with WRAP President **Kurt Erickson** [2nd from r] and Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles **Commissioner D.B. Smit** [r] in the background) at the launch of Virginia's 2007 Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign.

State and local data was analyzed at the launch event and indicated a 16-percent increase in alcohol-related traffic fatalities in Virginia in 2006. In 2006, Virginia had 374 fatalities and 7,543 injuries in alcohol-related crashes. Virginia saw more than a 14-percent (14.1%) decline between 2002 and 2005 (375 in 2002; 361 in 2003; 343 in 2004; and 322 in 2005) in drunk driving deaths. Despite this data increase, there has been a trend of decreased fatalities over the past five years (and since the 2002 debut of Virginia's Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign). The increases in 2006 are a startling contrast to the significant strides made in recent years to combat drinking and driving via Checkpoint Strikeforce and other initiatives.

This rise should serve to remind not only law enforcement and government officials, but also the public that eliminating drunk driving is an ongoing struggle and everyone must remain vigilant. In 2006, 29,595 persons were convicted of driving under the influence (DUI) – a five percent increase from 2005, according to the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles Highway Safety Office (DMV). To put this sobering figure into perspective, this translates into someone being found guilty of drunk driving every 19 minutes in the Commonwealth over the course of the year.



Virginia **Attorney General Bob McDonnell** being interviewed by the media at the launch of Virginia's 2007 Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign.

"Last year should be a wake up call for Virginia about drunk driving. It should remind us all that drunk driving remains a serious problem on our roadways," said Attorney General Robert McDonnell. "The fight to eliminate drunk driving is far from over and we will continue to prosecute drivers that endanger others by failing to act responsibly."

Throughout the rest of 2007, Virginia law enforcement agencies will hold a minimum of one sobriety checkpoint and or saturation patrol every week across the state. Through the utilization of these anti-DUI enforcement efforts, the statewide campaign works to keep impaired drivers off Virginia's roadways.

Virginians are also seeing the difference and supporting checkpoints. A July 2007 public opinion survey of 700 Virginia drivers, conducted for Checkpoint Strikeforce by the Richmond-based polling firm MWR Strategies, found that 89-percent of drivers support the anti-DUI initiative. Moreover, nearly three-quarters of Virginia drivers surveyed perceive drunk drivers as a dangerous threat with the majority (71-percent) saying drunk drivers are among the most serious dangers they face on the road.

In addition to sobriety checkpoints and patrols, Virginia's Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign is employing ads in combination with other statewide outreach efforts in a robust \$1,000,000 effort to remind citizens of the many dangers and consequences of impaired driving. Throughout the next several months, nearly 25,000 radio and television spots will run throughout the Commonwealth and will target the most feared result (77-percent) of drunk drivers, killing or injuring someone. The campaign is supported locally by a grant from the Virginia DMV. ■

(NOTES: This year's Checkpoint Strikeforce radio and television spots can be heard and seen by visiting www.checkpointstrikeforce.net/educate.html. In addition, the Greater Washington leg of this annual traffic safety campaign will be spotlighted via a special, Halloween-focused news conference this October in Washington, D.C.)

WRAP'S GEICO STUDENT AWARDS CELEBRATES 15TH YEAR IN LAUDING LOCAL TEENS FIGHTING UNDERAGE DRINKING

Calling it recognition of high school students "doing the right thing," WRAP awarded six Washington-metropolitan area high school student groups this spring with honors for their efforts in fighting underage drinking.

At the April 20, 2007 awards ceremony at the Verizon Center in Washington, D.C., WRAP presented its 15th-annual GEICO Student Awards to:

- **H.D. Woodson Sr. High School's SADD Club, District of Columbia**
- **Thomas Jefferson High School's SADD Club, Fairfax County, Virginia**
- **James Madison High School's SADD Club, Fairfax, County, Virginia**
- **Phoenix @ Emory Grove, Montgomery County, Maryland**
- **Rockville High School's SADD Club, Montgomery County**
- **Eleanor Roosevelt High School's SADD Club, Prince George's Co., MD**

(SADD: Students Against Destructive Decisions.)

The GEICO Student Awards, now in their 15th year, were presented by WRAP to Washington-metropolitan area high school student groups promoting alcohol and drug-free lifestyles to their peers. The popular awards – judged by members of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (COG) Drug Prevention and Education Committee in tandem with WRAP – were presented to just one student group in each of the Greater Washington counties and or cities served by WRAP. (Entries came from the District of Columbia, Fairfax, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties).

Student groups were judged on their leadership, effectiveness, innovation and involvement of both the student body and community in their efforts to prevent underage drinking. Activities of the winning groups included a variety of creative initiatives including: developing "contracts" between students and parents regarding the refraining from alcohol and drug use; organizing alcohol-free teen social events and forums; establishing mentoring relationships between high school and intermediate and elementary school students; and participating on town governing bodies.

In addition to attending a packed awards ceremony this afternoon at the Verizon Center's Acela Club, nearly 150 high school students gathered and applauded while the six winning student groups received \$ 500 each from GEICO to continue their efforts of keeping their peers on the right track. In addition and noting that 2007 marks both WRAP's 25th anniversary as well as the 15th anniversary of today's student awards, sponsor GEICO also presented \$ 100 checks to each school entering this year's competition as a means of sustaining individual student clubs' future activities in combating both drunk driving and underage drinking.

Popular MIX 107.3 FM personality Chilli Amar served as the day's Master of Ceremonies while speakers included Metropolitan Police Department Assistant Chief Alton Bigelow and award sponsor Janice Minshall with GEICO.

"In 2005, more than a quarter of all teen drivers killed in this country's traffic crashes had been drinking," said Minshall, also WRAP's Chairman. "Today's student group winners represent the front line in the fight against underage drinking in Greater Washington and we commend their efforts in this far from won battle." ■



Attendees at WRAP's 2007 GEICO Student Awards at the Verizon Center's Acela Club in Washington, D.C.

CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS

(through July 31, 2007)

Chairman's Club (\$10,000 and over):

Anheuser-Busch and Local Distributors
Cingular Wireless/AT&T
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
GEICO

Corporate Platinum (\$5,000-\$9,999):

Beer Institute
Exxon Mobil
Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association

Corporate Gold (\$1,000-\$4,999):

American Plastics Council
Century Council
Coors
Diageo
Fannie Mae Foundation
Giant Food
Interstate Worldwide Relocation
PAS Systems
Strat@comm
The Washington Post
Washington Wizards

Corporate Silver (\$500-\$999):

Daniel O'Connell's
Fado's
Murphy's Grand Irish Pub
Peerless Title
The Hartford

Corporate Bronze (100-\$499):

Flanagan's Harp
Ireland Four Courts
Ireland's Four Provinces
Irish Channel Restaurant

Irish Times
Kate's Irish Pub
Mackey's Public House
Martin's Tavern
McKeever's Pub
Mrs. O'Leary's
Old Brogue Pub
O'Sullivan's Irish Pub
Ri-Ra Irish Pub

SUMMER MONTHS DEADLIEST FOR TEEN DRIVERS

Citing the fact that summer's arrival also ushers in that period (June – August) when the greatest number of U.S. teen traffic deaths occur, WRAP launched its annual parental education initiative to combat both teen drinking and drunk driving this past summer.

In May, WRAP provided area parents of teens with "Ten Tips for a Safe Summer." WRAP's tips -- available on the organization's web site at www.wrap.org -- were designed to inform Greater Washington parents on how best to deter teen drinking during the dangerous summer months.

"There are nearly 50-percent more drunk driving deaths involving teens during the summer months than during any other time of the year," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's President. "For too many parents, unfortunately, summer's unstructured time may also be a deadly time for their teenage children and their friends."

In 2005, over 14-percent (14.6%) of all of the alcohol-related traffic fatalities in the Washington-metropolitan area involved persons less than 21 years of age, according to WRAP (and as excerpted from the organization's 14th-annual report, "How Safe are Our Roads?, A Data Report on the Impact of Drunk Driving on Highway Safety in the Washington Metropolitan Region" prepared by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments).

According to the American Medical Association (AMA), approximately 11 million American youth under the age of 21 drink alcohol. Nearly half of them drink to excess, consuming five or more drinks in a row, one or more times in a two week period. In addition, The Maryland State Department of Education's most recently published Maryland Adolescent Survey (October 2005) reported that "many Maryland young people report fairly heavy alcohol consumption, especially high school seniors and tenth graders." A 2004 Fairfax County survey found that 27.6% of that county's high school seniors reported binge drinking at least once in the past 14 days.

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism found that young people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol addiction than those who didn't begin drinking until age 21. In addition, youth who drink alcohol participate in other risky behaviors including driving while impaired, riding in a car with a drunk driver and, via impaired judgments about sex and contraception, placing them at increased risk for HIV infection, other sexually-transmitted diseases and unplanned pregnancies.

WRAP's ten tips for parents to deter underage drinking and drunk driving this summer included:

- **Talk with Your Teen...**Studies time and time again have confirmed that parents can have a significant – if not most significant – impact as to whether their teens will engage in risky behaviors including the use of alcohol. Talk openly to your teen about alcohol. Create clear family rules and expectations by setting a "no alcohol" rule and supporting such an environment with "zero-tolerance" consequences if such rules are broken.
- **Provide Structure...**The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse found that teen children of "absentee parents" were four-times more likely to abuse substances than children in highly-structured homes." Find a responsible adult, neighbor, relative or friend who can look in on your child or share the responsibility for creating activities for your children. The National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign suggests you give your teens tasks (cooking dinner, doing chores, etc.) and make sure these tasks get done. In addition, most Washington-metro municipalities offer local teen-focused activities including teen centers and pool parties at nominal costs.

- **Host a Party...**Host a teen party in your own home following clearly-stated guidelines of no drugs or alcohol including: not serving beverages in easily-tampered cups but in cans or bottles; asking another parent to help chaperone; when a guest leaves, do not allow them to return; make your presence known; and if you suspect that a guest has used alcohol or drugs, contact their parents immediately.

- **Foster Self Confidence...**Instill self-confidence in your teen by talking with them about peer pressure. At some point, your teen will be offered alcohol. As the National Institutes of Health points out, "teens say they prefer quick 'one-liners' that allow them to dodge a drink without making a big scene." In addition, encourage and praise your teen for the good things they do. Participate in their lives and know what they're doing and with whom.

- **Lay Down the Law...**The District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia all have zero tolerance laws making it a crime to possess, transport or purchase alcohol if you're under 21. In addition, a new law went into effect last fall in Maryland doubling the penalties for teen drunk drivers with a one-year driver's license suspension even for first-time teens convicted of DUI in that state.

- **Ensure Safety...**Even if you have every confidence in the world that your teen won't drink alcohol, if he or she is out with someone who has made the mistake of illegally drinking, don't compound it by either making a second mistake of having him or her drive under the influence or driving with an impaired driver.

- **Beware of Your Civil Liability...**In most cases, it's unlawful for parents to allow their children's friends to consume alcohol in their home. If these same "friends" are later involved in a crash, the providing parents may be responsible for injuries, property damages and wrongful death. These same parents may also face criminal charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. In addition, last year Virginia enacted a new law explicitly prohibiting the serving of alcohol to teens in private residences with penalties ranging from up to one year in jail and or a \$ 2,500 fine.

- **Be a Role Model...**Parents, themselves, should be good role models by making sure their behavior is appropriate. Use alcohol moderately, serve as a responsible host and never drink and drive.

- **Be a Safe Boater...**Whether it's the Bay or the Potomac, this summer, don't overlook area waterways as another venue where advanced planning and safety is paramount as 50-percent of all boating deaths are alcohol-related according to the U.S. Coast Guard.

- **Don't Wait...**If you suspect that your child is drinking, intervene. Talk to your child and obtain qualified professional help if necessary. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services found that harsh, inconsistent discipline and hostility or rejection toward children has also been found to significantly predict adolescent drinking and alcohol-related problems. Set clear expectations and be consistent with discipline for rules not followed.

"Make no mistake about it, parents play an integral role in when and if their children drink alcohol," said Erickson. "These tips are simply meant to reinforce their efforts to foster a healthy and safe summer for them and their teenage children." ■

WRAP CALLS FOR SAFETY DURING THIS SPRING'S "PERFECT STORM"

Weekend Festivities Could Bring Perfect Storm," read the *WTOP* News headline (5-5-07) relative to WRAP's call for safety during May 5th's combination of Cinco de Mayo, Virginia Gold Cup Races, Kentucky Derby and Crown Royal 400 (Richmond, VA) events as having the makings of a 'perfect storm' when it comes to the potential for drunk driving.

"The confluence of this weekend's too-often alcohol-focused events has all the makings of a perfect storm when it comes to drunk driving," warned Kurt Gregory Erickson at the time, WRAP's President.

According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration figures and since 1999, 43-percent of all U.S. traffic fatalities occurring on the evening of May 5th were caused by drunk drivers.

As a means of reducing what WRAP labels as "100-percent preventable," alcohol-related traffic incidents that weekend, WRAP urged residents that weekend to:

- **Plan ahead and designate a driver** if you're celebrating with alcohol.
- **Use alternative transportation** like taxi cabs.
- **Be a responsible host by:**
 - ✓ **Not serving anyone who appears to be impaired.**

- ✓ **Serving food with alcohol** (like high protein foods like meats and cheeses which stay in the stomach longer thereby slowing the body's alcohol absorption rate).
- ✓ **Using a non-carbonated base in alcoholic punches** (as the body absorbs alcohol faster when mixed with carbonization).
- ✓ **Serving non-alcoholic beverages as an option.**
- ✓ **Never serving minors.**
- ✓ **Closing the bar at least an hour before the event's end.**
- ✓ **Designate a bartender / don't let guests mix their own drinks.**
- ✓ **And never allowing impaired guest to get behind the wheel.**

• **Report drunk drivers.** (*Maryland and Virginia law enforcement professionals both encourage the use of the " #77 feature " on wireless telephones for motorists to report suspected drunk drivers. In D.C., dialing " 311 " is encouraged for the same.*)

• **Wear your seatbelt.**

"Wearing a seat belt may not be widely viewed as a tool in this effort but the wearing of a seat belt may be your best defense against a drunk driver," said Erickson. "The bottom-line is that the routine wearing of seatbelts is the single most effective measure to reduce crash-related deaths and injuries." ■

WRAP LAUNCHES "PARTNERS" CAMPAIGN

At its fall 2006 Annual Meeting, WRAP officially launched its "Partners in the Fight Against Drunk Driving" campaign (and in conjunction with such kicking-off WRAP's 25th year of combating drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area).

WRAP's "Partners in the Fight Against Drunk Driving" campaign invites \$1,000 donors to play a crucial role in the continuation and sustainability of the organization's lifesaving and award-winning community services and programs. For while Greater Washington's drunk driving "numbers" are going down, the demand and costs of WRAP's programs (including those affected by fuel and surcharges like WRAP's SoberRide® campaign) are going up.

However persons and or businesses capable of pledging just \$1,000 in support of WRAP can continue the region's winning fight against drunk driving and teen drinking by continuing WRAP's programs including those offered to area youth.

Succinctly, "Partners in the Fight Against Drunk Driving" contributors can make sure that WRAP's lifesaving offerings continue in the future.

Founding members of WRAP's "Partners in the Fight Against Drunk Driving" campaign and making their \$ 1,000 or more pledges to the charitable organization prior to last fall's deadline include:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Beer Institute | • Glory Days Grill |
| • Capitol Outdoor | • Goodman & Company |
| • Charmer Sunbelt Group | • Janice Minshall |
| • DesignHouse | • Law Offices of Brian J. Moran |
| • Easterns Automotive Group | • Sue Morris |
| • Enterprise Rent-A-Car | • Sherier Capital |
| • GEICO | • Leisa and Kevin Weir |
| • Giant Food Inc. | • Jim Wordsworth |

Through the generosity of these benefactors, more than \$20,000 was raised for this inaugural development campaign greatly helping to ensure the sustainability of WRAP's lifesaving programs and services.

For more information or to find out how you can become a "Partner in the Fight Against Drunk Driving," contact WRAP at 703 / 893-0461 or at wrap@wrap.org. ■

WRAP'S ST. PAT'S SOBERRIDE® REMOVES OVER 600 WOULD-BE DRUNK DRIVERS



Metropolitan Police Department Assistant Chief Patrick Burke at the kick-off of WRAP's 2007 St. Patrick's Day SoberRide campaign.

The Washington-metropolitan area's SoberRide program provided a record 603 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers this St. Patrick's Day.



AT&T's Colin Martin (left) presents a \$12,500 check to WRAP's George Pakidis (center) and Kurt Erickson.

Provided by the WRAP, the 2007 St. Patrick's Day SoberRide program began on St. Patrick's Day (Saturday, March 17th) at 4:00 pm and continued until 6:00 am March 18th as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

"For SoberRide's hours of operation this St. Patrick's Day, this translates into the removal of a would-be drunk driver from Greater Washington's roadways every 84-seconds," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's President.

During SoberRide's 14-hour period this St. Patrick's Day, area residents celebrating with alcohol could call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1 - 800 - 200 - TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to a \$50 fare), safe way home. Cingular users could call # - TAXI for the same

service. Local taxicab companies throughout the Washington-metropolitan area provided this no-cost service to local residents age 21 and older who otherwise may have attempted to drive home after drinking.

SoberRide was 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.

Sponsors of this year's St. Patrick's Day SoberRide offering included Anheuser-Busch, Baileys & Bushmills, Cingular, Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation, Red Top Cab and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association.



Enterprise Rent-A-Car's Patrick Farace announcing a \$15,000 contribution to WRAP at the kick-off of WRAP's 2007 St. Patrick's Day SoberRide campaign.

In addition, nearly a dozen-and-half of the Washington-metropolitan area's better-known Irish restaurants also united to ensure a safe St. Patrick's Day celebration this year by sponsoring SoberRide. These dining establishments included: Biddy Mulligan's (DC); Daniel O'Connell's Restaurant (VA); The Dubliner Restaurant & Pub (DC); Fado (DC); Ireland Four Courts (VA); Ireland's Four Provinces (VA); Irish Channel Restaurant (DC); Kelly's Irish Times (DC); Mackey's Public House (DC); Martin's Tavern est. 1933 (DC); McKeever's Pub (VA); Murphy's Grand Irish Pubs (DC & VA); Old Brogue Irish Pub (VA); O'Sullivan's Irish Pub (VA); Ri Ra Irish Pub (MD); and Sine Irish Pub (VA).

Participating taxicab companies include: Alexandria Yellow Cab; Barwood; Fairfax Yellow Cab; Loudoun Yellow Cab; Manassas Cab Company; Red Top Cab; Silver Cab of Prince George's County; Taxi Transportation Services; and Yellow Cab of Prince William County.

This year's SoberRide ridership surpasses last year's then record St. Patrick's Day SoberRide ridership of 580 riders. ■

WRAP LAUDS AREA LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR FIGHT AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING



Montgomery County **Chief of Police Tom Manger** (center) and Arlington County **Chief of Police Doug Scott** chatting with a guest at WRAP's 2006 Law Enforcement Awards.

Thirteen Washington-metropolitan area police officers were cited for their "outstanding commitment in the fight against drunk driving in Greater Washington" in December and presented with the area's ninth-annual "Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention."

Presented at a regional ceremony featuring Maryland Attorney General Doug Gansler, WRAP presented its 2006 Law Enforcement Awards to:

- **City of Alexandria** Police Department Officer Seth Weinstein
- **Arlington County** Police Department's Officer Glen Buss
- **Fairfax County** Police Department's Second Lt. Dennis R. O'Neill
- **Loudoun County** Sheriff's Office's Deputy Aaron Taylor
- **Maryland State Police's** Trooper Corey S. Steffy
- **Metropolitan Police Department's** Officers Dustin Roeder, Roberto Torres and Andrew Zabavsky
- **Montgomery County** Department of Police's Officer III John Romack
- **Prince George's County** Police Department's Corporal Steven Allen
- **Prince William County** Police Department's Officer Edward J. McDermott
- **United States Park Police's** Officer Adam Zielinski
- **Virginia State Police's** Trooper Michael J. McSellers



Alexandria Police **Officer Seth Weinstein** (second from left) receiving his 2006 WRAP Law Enforcement Award accompanied by (left to right) Prince William County Police **Major Barry Bernard**, FOX 5 DC's **Melanie Alnwick**, retired Metropolitan Police Department **Lieutenant Pamela Simms** and WUSA-TV's **Jan Fox**.



Maryland **Attorney General Doug Gansler** at WRAP's 2006 Law Enforcement Awards.

The annual awards, presented at a ceremony at Maggiano's Little Italy in the Tysons Galleria, were bestowed by WRAP in memory of Metropolitan Police Department's Motor Patrol Officer Anthony W. Simms. Officer Simms, as a result of injuries sustained while on duty, lost his life to an impaired driver during Memorial Day weekend in 1996. WRAP's 2006 Law Enforcement Awards were presented by Officer Simms' widow, Lieutenant Pamela Simms, also with the Metropolitan Police Department, along with FOX 5 DC's Melanie Alnwick and WUSA-TV's Jan Fox, serving as the event's Master of Ceremonies.

"Today's awardees represent the front lines in the fight against drunk driving in Greater Washington," said Janice Minshall, WRAP's Chairman. "It is only through their commitment in stopping the threat that impaired driving presents to all our friends and families that the Washington-metropolitan area continues to have a rate of alcohol-related traffic deaths lower than the national average."

According to WRAP, local law enforcement officers made 15,232 DUI / DWI arrests throughout the Washington-metropolitan region in 2005.

In addition to receiving the Law Enforcement Awards, each of the 2006 WRAP honorees also received two complementary Washington Wizards tickets (courtesy of the Washington Wizards) and a \$25 prepaid gas card (courtesy of Exxon Mobil). ■



Award winners at WRAP's 2006 Law Enforcement Awards.

WRAP COMMEMORATES 24TH YEAR AT ANNUAL MEETING



Fairfax County Police Captain Jesse Bowman (l) chatting with National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Bill Tower (center) and Fairfax County Police's Jerry Stemler at WRAP's 2006 Annual Meeting.

In a packed ballroom at Maggiano's Little Italy in northwest Washington, D.C. on October 19, 2006, WRAP commemorated its 24th year fighting drunk driving and underage drinking with both Washington Business Journal publisher Alex Orfinger as well as the honoring of 19 area individuals and businesses going above and beyond the call of duty in Greater Washington's fight against drunk driving and teen drinking.

Able serving as a speaker that day was Washington Business Journal publisher Alex Orfinger. In addition – and with the assistance of NBC 4's Bob Ryan – the following 2006 awardees were bestowed honors from WRAP:

2006 WRAP COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AWARDS:

- Cingular
- GEICO
- Red Top Cab

2006 WRAP PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP AWARDS:

- District of Columbia Department of Transportation
- Maryland Highway Safety Office
- Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles



WRAP Board member George Pakidis chatting with fellow attendees at WRAP's 2006 Annual Meeting.

2006 WRAP CORPORATE SPONSOR AWARDS:

- Beer Institute
- Cingular
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- ExxonMobil
- GEICO
- Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association

2006 WRAP CORPORATE PARTNER AWARD:

- Anheuser-Busch and their local distributors

2006 WRAP LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD:

- Metropolitan Police Department Officer Arlinda Page

2006 WRAP PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD:

- Virginia Delegate Brian J. Moran (D-Alexandria)



Washington Business Journal publisher Alex Orfinger at WRAP's 2006 Annual Meeting.

2006 WRAP YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD:

- Nadine Parker, National Capital Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking

2006 WRAP MEDIA PARTNERSHIP AWARD:

- Steve Eldridge, The Washington Examiner

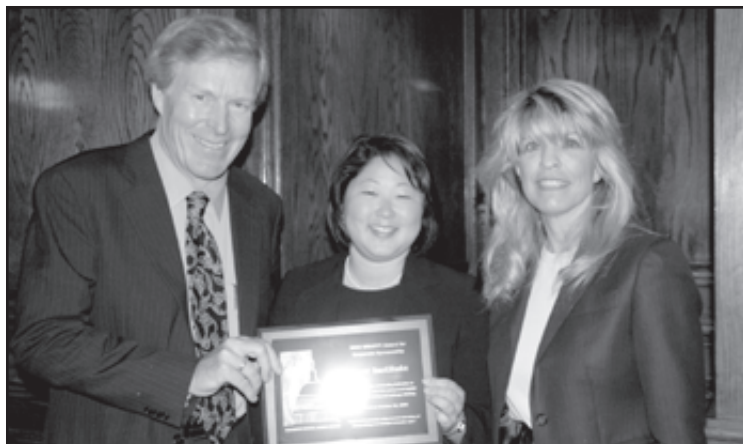
2006 WRAP CHAIRMAN'S AWARD:

- George Pakidis, Red Top Cab;
- Robin Black, Washington Regional Alcohol Program

Continued on page 12

WRAP COMMEMORATES 24TH YEAR AT ANNUAL MEETING

Continued on page 11



*NBC4 meteorologist **Bob Ryan** and WRAP **Chairman Janice Minshall** (r) present an award to the Beer Institute's **Susan Haney** at WRAP's 2006 Annual Meeting.*

In addition, the following persons were unanimously re-elected as WRAP's officers through September 30, 2007:

- Janice Minshall, GEICO, Chairman
- Leisa Weir, Vice Chairman
- Alexa Kaufman, Cingular, Secretary
- Fred Valentine, Treasurer
- John Undeland, Strat@comm, Immediate Past Chairman

The following were unanimously elected to WRAP's Board of Directors through September 30, 2007:

- Patrick Farace, Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- David Tartaglia, CareFirst BlueCross Blue Shield

And the following persons were unanimously elected to serve on WRAP's newly-developed "Advisory Committee":

- Vernon Betkey, Jr., Maryland Highway Safety Office
- David Mosley, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles
- Carole Lewis, District of Columbia Department of Transportation

On a special note, long-time WRAP Board member Jeff Levy, representing the Virginia non-profit organization Virginia College Parents (an organization striving to educate parents about the status and safety of their children's colleges with regard to underage drinking issues), presented to WRAP an award in the form of a beautifully engraved plaque inscribed with the sentiment, "in appreciation of your (WRAP's) outstanding support (during the) 2006 Virginia General Assembly Session" relative to championing deterrents to underage drinking in Virginia.

Finally, guests in attendance were treated to the awarding of numerous, donated door prizes including: a Maggiano's gift certificate, Washington Redskins and Washington Capitals game tickets, University of Maryland Terrapins football and George Mason University basketball game tickets as well as Washington Choral Arts Society performance tickets. ■

OVER 250 SOBERRIDES® PROVIDED ON JULY 4TH

The Washington-metropolitan area's SoberRide program provided 253 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers this Independence Day.

Provided by WRAP, the 2007 Independence Day SoberRide program began on Independence Day (Wednesday, July 4th) at 4:00 pm and continued until 4:00 am July 5th as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

"For SoberRide's hours of operation this July 4th, this translates into the removal of a would-be drunk driver from Greater Washington's roadways every three-minutes," said George Pakidis, Chairman of WRAP's SoberRide Committee.

This year's ridership level represents a 41-percent increase from that of WRAP's 2006 Independence Day SoberRide offering (then totaling 179 riders).

During SoberRide's 12-hour period this Independence Day, area residents celebrating with alcohol could call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to a \$50 fare), safe way home. AT&T wireless users could call # - TAXI for

the same service. Local taxicab companies throughout the Washington-metropolitan area provided this no-cost service to local residents age 21 and older who otherwise may have attempted to drive home after drinking.

SoberRide was 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.

Sponsors of this year's Independence Day SoberRide offering included AT&T, Anheuser-Busch, Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation, ExxonMobil, GEICO and Red Top Cab of Arlington.

Participating taxicab companies included: Alexandria Yellow Cab, Barwood; Fairfax Yellow Cab; Loudoun Yellow Cab; Manassas Cab Company; Red Top Cab; Silver Cab of Prince George's County; Taxi Transportation Services; and Yellow Cab of Prince William County.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 37,835 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area. ■

DRUNK DRIVING DECLINING IN GREATER WASHINGTON

For the second year in a row, the number of alcohol-related traffic fatalities, injuries and crashes all declined in the Washington-metropolitan area in 2005 according to a report released last November by the non-profit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP).

Meanwhile, the number of local arrests for driving under the influence (DUI) or driving while intoxicated (DWI) increased in 2005 totaling 15,232 such arrests.

"While no one is yet waving a victory flag in Greater Washington's continuing battle against drunk driving, the region's latest trends appear to be the dividends of both increased public attention to the matter and, in tandem, increased law enforcement efforts," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's President.

This past winter's released data is contained in WRAP's 14th-annual report, "How Safe are Our Roads?, A Data Report on the Impact of Drunk Driving on Highway Safety in the Washington Metropolitan Region." The report was prepared by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) for the McLean, Virginia-based alcohol-education group.

Findings in the 2006 report included:

FATALS...Local alcohol and or drug-related traffic deaths decreased by 19-percent (19.1%) between 2004 and 2005. Such represents the second consecutive year of such a decline. In addition, 2005 marks the first time which such deaths (89) totaled less than 100 since the year 2000 (95).

CRASHES...Area traffic crashes attributed to alcohol and or drugs decreased by more than nine-percent (9.2%) between 2004 and 2005. Such represents the second consecutive year of such a decline. Additionally, 2005 marks the lowest number of such crashes (4,494) since the year 2000 (4,152).

INJURIES...Local alcohol and or drug-related traffic injuries decreased by over 31-percent (31.4%) between 2004 and 2005. Such represents the second consecutive year of such a decline. In addition, 2005 marks the lowest number of such injuries (2,022) at least since 1999 (when such regional data was first compiled by WRAP).

ARRESTS...Local arrests for either driving under the influence (DUI) or driving while intoxicated (DWI) increased by two-percent (2%) between 2004 and 2005. Such represents a second consecutive year increase in such arrests.

Additionally, 2005 marks the highest level of local impaired driving arrests (15,232) since 2002 (16,309).

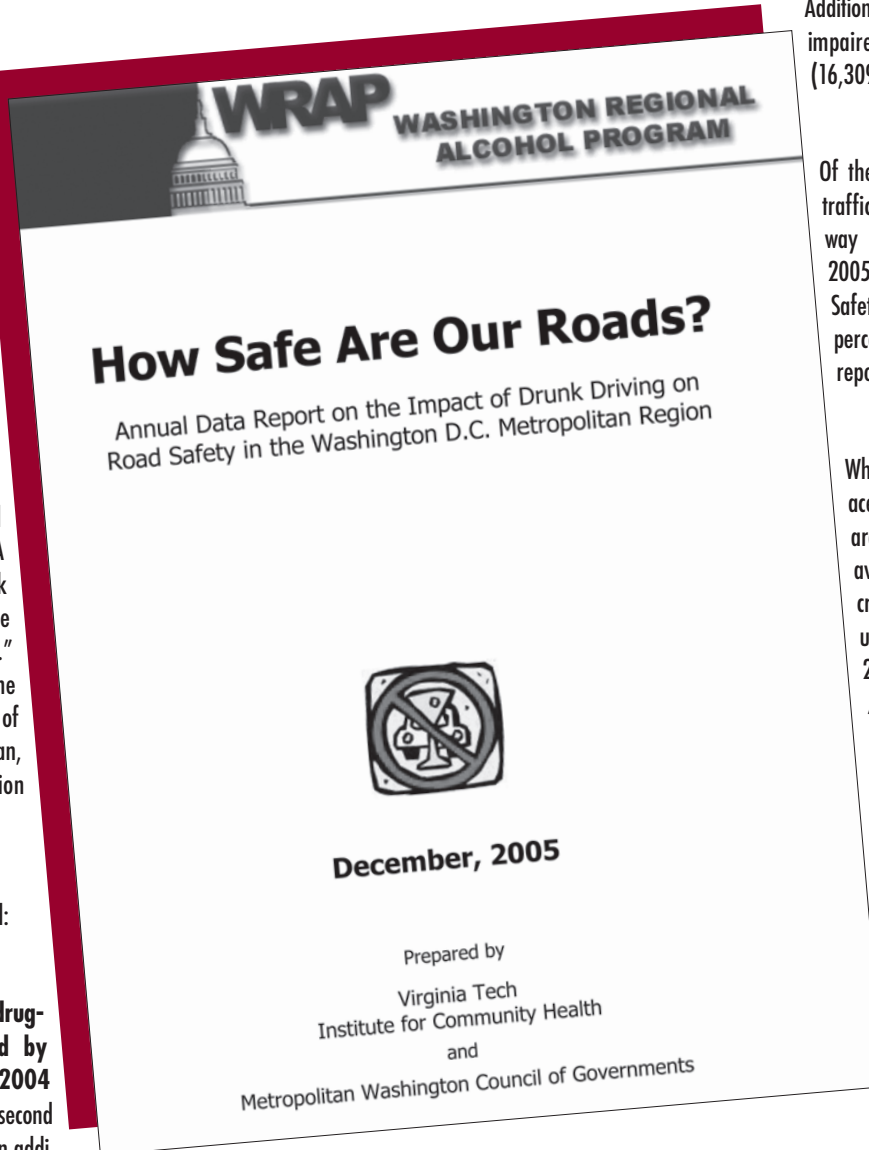
Of the Washington-metropolitan area's 351 total traffic fatalities in 2005, 25.4% (89) of these roadway deaths were alcohol and or drug-related. 2005 national statistics (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration or NHTSA) cite that 38.9-percent of total U.S. vehicular fatalities were reported as alcohol / drug-related.

While WRAP and COG officials found some solace in the fact that the Washington-metropolitan area continues to remain below the national average in terms of the percentage of traffic crashes involving alcohol, the same officials urged caution in interpreting the released 2005 data.

"While today's data clearly shows a welcomed, second year change to the trajectory of local drunk driving incidents, make no mistake about it, Greater Washington's fight against drunk driving is far from won," said David Robertson, COG's Executive Director. "This is especially evident in the fact that while drunk driving incidents in the Washington-metropolitan area may be down, the region is still, on average, locking-up nearly 300 drivers each week for DUI."

WRAP's timing in releasing its preliminary report was in tandem with this country's most deadly time of year when it comes to drunk driving. According to NHTSA, historically, more people are killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes between Thanksgiving and New Years than during any other period of the year. ■

(WRAP's 2006 "How Safe are Our Roads?" report can be found as a pdf file at: <http://www.wrap.org/highwaysafety06.pdf>. The 2007 report is expected to be released later this fall.)



237 SOBERRIDES® PROVIDED OVER HALLOWEEN



Metropolitan Police Department **Commander Robert Contee** at the kick-off of WRAP's 2006 Halloween SoberRide campaign and Checkpoint Strikeforce launch.

THE WRAP REPORTER

The WRAP Reporter is the biannual newsletter of the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), an award-winning, public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area.

FALL 2007 ISSUE

Janice Minshall, Chairman
Leisa Weir, Vice Chairman
Kurt Gregory Erickson, President
Robin Black, Director of Operations
Apryl Lomax, Program Manager*

**Resigned August 2007*

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<http://www.wrap.org>

The Washington-metropolitan area's SoberRide program provided 237 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers last night (Halloween).

Provided by WRAP, the Halloween SoberRide program began on Tuesday, October 31, 2006 at 8:00 pm and continued until 4:00 am November 1st morning as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

SoberRide was 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.

Sponsors of WRAP's 2006 Halloween SoberRide offering included Anheuser-Busch, Cingular, Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation, Red Top Cab of Arlington and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association. ■

NEARLY 700 USE SOBERRIDE® ON NEW YEAR'S

Six-hundred-and-ninety-seven (697) persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used WRAP's free cab ride service, SoberRide, this past New Year's Eve as opposed to possibly driving home drunk.

WRAP's most recent holiday SoberRide offering - which concluded at 6:00 am on New Year's Day 2007 after kicking-off and running nightly since December 8, 2006 - provided 2,706 total, free cabs rides to local residents age 21 and older who otherwise may have attempted to drive home after drinking.

This most recent holiday SoberRide program operated between 10:00 pm and 6:00 am each evening over this more than three-week period as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period. During that time, Washington-metropolitan area residents celebrating with alcohol could call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to \$50 fare), safe way home. (Cingular customers could call #TAXI for the same service.)

This past New Year's Eve ridership represented the second-highest for SoberRide's history of New Year's Eve offerings (following 2002's record 808 rides provided on that year's New Year's Eve evening).

Sponsors of the 2006 Holiday SoberRide campaign included Anheuser-Busch, Cingular, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, GEICO, Giant Food Inc., Red Top Cab and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association.

WRAP's SoberRide program is a past recipient of Virginia's prestigious Governor's Award for Transportation Safety. ■

WRAP NOTES:



MARYLAND REMEMBERS

WRAP President Kurt Erickson (center) poses with former Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich and First Lady Kendel Ehrlich at the conclusion of WRAP's hosted, third-annual "Maryland Remembers" event this past winter at Maryland's State House in Annapolis.



MARYLAND IMPAIRED DRIVING ENFORCEMENT AWARDS

Maryland Highway Office staffers (l to r) Tish Galloway, Joyce Kregelka and Joy Marowski getting ready for WRAP's hosting of the sixth-annual Maryland Impaired Driving Enforcement Awards in Westminster, Maryland on September 9th. The 2007 event featured more than 80 Maryland law enforcement professionals being recognized for their commitment to the state's fight against drunk driving;



NHTSA PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDEES

WRAP President Kurt Erickson (left, second row) joins past recipients of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's prestigious "Public Service Awards" at the 25th annual Lifesavers Conference this spring in Chicago.



WRAP LEADERSHIP

Members of WRAP's Board of Directors listen to former "Washingtonian of the Year" and longtime pillar of community service in Greater Washington, Lyles Carr, at an August meeting of WRAP's voluntary leadership held at Washington, D.C.'s "Collaborative."



TIE ONE ON FOR SAFETY

WRAP President Kurt Erickson (back to camera) talks with Virginia State Senator Mark Herring (D-Leesburg) prior to last winter's MADD-annual "Tie One on for Safety" campaign kick-off event held in Leesburg, Virginia.

CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD

This past fall, WRAP was presented with the Maryland Office of Traffic and Safety's "Award for Outstanding Customer Service." Such honor, presented at a meeting of Maryland's more than 280-organization Impaired Driving Coalition in Annapolis, Maryland, was bestowed upon WRAP by Maryland Highway Safety Office Chief Vernon Betkey who read the award's inscription saying that such an honor "is presented to the Washington Regional Alcohol Program in honor of your (WRAP's) outstanding commitment to helping Maryland win the fight against impaired driving."

UPCOMING EVENTS:

OCTOBER 19, 2007
(11:30 am – 2:00 pm)
WRAP 2007 Annual Luncheon Meeting
& WRAPPY Awards,
Acela Club, Verizon Center,
Washington, D.C.

OCTOBER 25, 2007 (TBD)
WRAP's launch of 2007
Greater Washington Checkpoint
Strikeforce Campaign,
Washington, D.C.

OCTOBER 31, 2007 – NOVEMBER 1, 2007
(8:00 pm – 4:00 am)
WRAP's 2007 Halloween
SoberRide® Campaign

DECEMBER TBD, 2007
WRAP's 2007
"Maryland Remembers" Ceremony,
Maryland State House,
Annapolis, Maryland

DECEMBER 7, 2007
(8:30 am – 10:30 am)
WRAP's 2007
Law Enforcement Awards
McLean, Virginia

DECEMBER 7, 2007 – JANUARY 1, 2008
(10:00 pm – 6:00 am)
WRAP's 2007 Holiday
SoberRide® Campaign



WASHINGTON REGIONAL ALCOHOL PROGRAM
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