FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Office of the Mayor

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City of Stamford Announces Anti Drinking and Driving Campaign
(Office of Public Safety Campaign at Preventing Drunk Driving)

STAMFORD, CT – The Office of the Mayor, Office of Public Safety, and Stamford Police Department (SPD) announced the launch of a campaign to prevent drunk driving as residents prepare to enjoy the Holiday Season. The campaign will enhance public safety by building awareness and increasing enforcement and police visibility on Stamford roads.

Mayor Martin highlighted the importance of building awareness in the community and with our young adults. "During the Holiday Season we want all residents to be safe. We especially urge all parents to take the time and talk to their young adults about the dangers of underage drinking and the consequences of their actions," said Martin.

The Stamford Police Department will work hard to keep the city's roads safe. Sobriety checkpoints and roving DUI patrols, which reduce alcohol-related crashes substantially, have been scheduled throughout the Holiday Season.

The Offices provided the following message to residents:

Now it's time for you as Stamford residents to do your part and plan a little in advance for your safety and the safety of others. Help us reduce accidents by driving with extra caution this Holiday Season. Anyone who is consuming alcohol should never get behind the wheel of a vehicle. If you see a suspected drunk driver, call 911 as this is a true emergency.

If you're hosting a party where alcohol will be served, remind your guests to plan ahead and designate their sober driver; offer alcohol-free beverages; and make sure all guests leave with a sober driver.

The Director of Public Safety, Health and Welfare Ted Jankowski explained, "Avoiding drinking and driving has never been easier. Whenever your social plans involve alcohol make arrangements so that you don't have to drive after drinking. There are a wide variety of options to choose before resorting to getting behind the wheel while inebriated."

To avoid the possibility of severe consequences and to provide for your safety and the safety of others, the following are simple alternative courses of action.

1) Choose a Designated Driver
Prior to any drinking, designate a non-drinking driver when with family, friends or a group. If you are going out with friends, have one of your friends be responsible for driving for the evening. That friend avoids drinking and is able to drive everyone home safely.

2**) Call a Cab**
If you have been drinking, get a ride home or call a taxi. You can return for your vehicle the following day with no real problem. A small cab fee is much better than the potential cost of a DUI charge. When you go out, take the number for the cab company with you so that you are prepared for that moment that you want to go home. They will pick you up and drive you home.

Stamford Taxi	203-325-2611
Stamford Yellow Cab/Eveready Cab	203-967-3633
Independent Taxi	203-968-6800
USA Taxi	203-487-0007

3) Phone a Friend, Family Member or Parent
Call a friend, family member or parent to pick you up. It might be a little bothersome, but nowhere near as embarrassing as asking them to bail you out of jail and a lot more convenient than a visit to the hospital or worse.

4) Public Transportation
Take advantage of a wide variety of public transportation locations in Stamford that can be convenient to where you may be drinking alcohol.

5) Stay with Family, Friends, or at a Hotel
Consider staying at a safe location with family, a friend or at a hotel.

6) Walking
You can choose a location within walking distance of your home, or choose a place near sleeping accommodations like a hotel or other location.

Choosing to use these simple alternatives will have the advantage of avoiding driving under the influence of alcohol. Simply put, planning a little in advance will provide for your safety, the safety of others and will allow you to enjoy the Holiday Season

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