



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**The Benicia Police Department Encourages Public to be Responsible and Drive Sober**

Benicia, Calif. – As summer comes to a close, the Benicia Police Department is asking drivers to not get behind the wheel after drinking or using drugs that impact your ability to drive safely.

The Benicia Police Department is joining law enforcement agencies across the country in the national enforcement campaign, *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*. During this period, which runs from Aug. 16 to Sept. 2 (Labor Day), The Benicia Police Department will have additional officers on the road looking for drivers suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

Labor Day Weekend remains one of the deadliest times of year for alcohol-involved crashes. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there were 376 deadly crashes nationwide during the 2017 Labor Day holiday period (Sept. 1 to Sept. 5). Among those crashes, more than one-third (36%) involved a drunk driver. Last year, two people were killed, and 31 others injured in California on Labor Day alone.

“While we want everyone to enjoy their long weekends, we also want them to be safe,” Chief Erik Upson said. “There’s no reason to endanger yourself and everyone due to impaired driving.”

Driving while impaired is illegal, whether it is alcohol, prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications or marijuana.

If you plan on drinking or are taking medications that can affect your driving ability, designate a sober driver or use a ride-share service. If you see someone driving impaired, call 911. Funding for DUI enforcement is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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