

# TOWN OF HINGHAM



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

MICHAEL J. PERAINO

CHIEF OF POLICE

212 CENTRAL STREET  
HINGHAM, MA 02043

TEL: (781) 749-1212  
FAX: (781) 741-1462

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Contact Sgt. Steven Dearth  
781-804-2205 [sdearth@hingham-ma.com](mailto:sdearth@hingham-ma.com)

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## **Hingham Police Awarded Grant to Target Drunk Drivers** *State Doubles Grant Awarded to Hingham*

The Hingham police are participating in a national crackdown, titled "**Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over**", funded by a grant from the State Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS). The grant runs from August 15 through Labor Day.

The grant, a total of \$3,300, will be used to assign additional officers whose sole purpose is to aggressively identify and arrest all drunk drivers. These patrols will be concentrating their efforts at specific days and times and on streets where frequent O.U.I. arrests or O.U.I. crashes have been occurring.

In Massachusetts in 2010, 115 people died in alcohol related crashes and there were 2,750 alcohol related crashes. In 2010, 14,635 drivers arrested for OUI in Massachusetts (2011 data is not finalized).

Hingham has had 1 traffic fatality in 2012 and 2 in 2011. While none of those fatalities involved alcohol, drunk drivers in Hingham have continued to cause crashes, some resulting in life threatening injuries. So far this year, there have been 11 alcohol related crashes. Through the same time in 2011 there were 12.

Removing drunk drivers remains a year round public safety priority for the Hingham Police. To date in 2012, Hingham Police have arrested 46 drivers for O.U.I. During the same period in 2011, Hingham Police arrested 57 drivers.

In addition to strict enforcement, preventing and deterring drunk drivers also reduces the risk to the public. To highlight the importance of this campaign the Hingham Police have rented an electronic message board to be set up on Route 3A during this crackdown. The board will display the mobilization's name "**Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over**" and our website address.

By joining this nationwide effort, we will make our roads safer throughout the Labor Day period. Drivers can do their part by designating a sober driver before drinking, reporting possible impaired drivers by calling 9-1-1 and always using their seat belt-it's the best protection from a drunk driver.