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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROSECUTOR SEIZES DRUNK DRIVER VEHICLES

OWI Vehicle Seizure Program Announced

Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy and Wayne County Chief Executive Robert Ficano along with Homer Smith, Executive Director, MADD Michigan, Detroit Police Chief Ella Bully-Cummings, Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans, Michigan State Police Captain Dewayne Brantley and the Wayne County Chiefs of Police announced a new program using previously untapped provisions of the Motor Vehicle Code (MCL 257.625n).

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ("NHTSA") in 2003 37% of all traffic fatalities in the State of Michigan were alcohol-related.

Under the new program, upon the commission of certain OWI offenses, police departments may seize and store the perpetrator's vehicle. Redemption fees will begin at \$900 (plus towing and storage costs) and in some cases the penalty will be full forfeiture of the vehicle.

In Michigan the forfeiture laws have never been used to combat this deadly problem. The countywide initiative by Wayne County Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy and her partners will take the weapon of choice from the drunk driver.

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