



## **The Denton Police Department Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) Strategic Plan FY 18 – FY 22**

In fulfilling our mission of “keeping victims safe and holding offenders accountable”, The Denton Police Department is committed to addressing Driving While Intoxicated to the fullest extent possible. We seek evidence-based, proactive, innovative, and collaborative (EPIC) solutions to this nation-wide problem. We envision a community in which impaired drivers are dissuaded from committing such a dangerous offense in the first place, while those who choose to violate the law are stopped before harming innocent persons or themselves, and then held accountable through the criminal justice system.

***Strategic goal: The Denton Police Department is seeking to lower the amount of DWI related crashes that occur in the city each year so that there are fewer deaths and fewer injuries. In order to achieve this goal, the Department must maximize capabilities when it comes to the following categories:***

- 1. Prevention***
- 2. Enforcement***
- 3. Prosecution***

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## Prevention:

The Denton Police Department takes a prevention first attitude, aimed at discouraging impaired driving. We are determined to communicate the dangers of impaired driving from all angles. We will maximize our ability to reach people through website messaging, social media, and outreach education at high schools and local universities. Additionally, we will work with partners in bar districts to encourage alternative means of transportation for those consuming alcohol, while asking for their help to avoid overserving, and to report intoxicated persons who are intent on operating a motor vehicle.

- Dedicated public information campaign:
  - ✓ Assign a meaningful name that creates a vision: *DWI Free Denton*
  - Dedicate links about DWI on the front page of Department website
  - Social media push from all available mediums
  - Create short movie clips that describe previous DWI deaths in the City of Denton
    - Victim testimonials
    - Suspect testimonials
    - Link testimonials in as many places possible
  - Post signs, message boards, and billboards in strategic places, including identified DWI hotspots, and college living areas that will effectively market the campaign
  - Work with Denton Record Chronicle to get regular stories in the blotter
  - Prevent underage drinking, including high school students, with the “Shattered Dreams” and “Focus on Reducing Impaired Driving Among Youth” (FRIDAY) programs
    - Incorporate DWI segment into existing traffic lecture for high school students
    - Organize and host a Saturday traffic safety symposium attended by multiple partners including TXDOT
  - Collaborate with the three local colleges to get the message out through e-mails and other mediums, including sporting events. Let them know ahead of time that we are going to be doing special enforcement so as to discourage impaired driving
  - Include prescription drug usage as a form of impairment
  - Post DWI strategic plan on Department website
  - Incorporate TABC into the prevention initiative
  
- Complete SARA (Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment) project on DWI crashes:
  - Last two years of Data
  - Problem Analysis Triangle (Suspect, Victim, Location)
  - Focused response plan based on the analysis of all three factors

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- Create partnerships with owners and managers to encourage alternatives for prospective impaired motorists, and for the promotion of female safety:
  - Using the last known drink location data, visit with each establishment to develop collaborative ways to solve the problems of overserving and finding alternative transportation for impaired persons
  - Bar staff assist people in obtaining an Uber or Lyft ride home
  - Bar staff identify persons who intend on driving so that they can immediately discourage or immediately report to police
  - Visit with every drinking establishment in the City to promote campaign
  - Visit alcoholic beverage sales businesses to see if they will promote campaign
  - Institute “Ask for Angela” campaign to assist females who are potentially in an unsafe encounter and need a discreet method of seeking help
  
- Strengthen and maintain partnerships with other government and non-governmental organizations:
  - ✓ Designate Traffic sergeant as the liaison with the District Attorney’s DWI prosecution team, the MADD leadership team, other Denton County law enforcement DWI enforcement teams, and with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code agent
  - Work with both government and non-government agencies to fund durable and accurate Portable Breath Tests (PBT) so that they may be used to assist patrons in making a driving decision
  - Work with court system to allow probationers for DWI offenses to engage in community service that furthers the prevention campaign
  - When strategic plan is finalized, set-up a meeting with all potential stakeholders and explain goals and plan
  
- Encourage witnesses to report drunk driving
  - Just like targeting people to discourage them from driving while intoxicated, we will run a portion of our public information campaign on encouraging witnesses to call in about impaired driving
  - Dispatch always asks caller if they are willing to stay on the line with 911 as long as safety allows.
  - Dispatch maintains the call as long as a Denton police officer is still en route to locate motorist, including after leaving city limits.
  - Formally recognize witnesses who call and successfully identify an impaired driver with a Chief’s Letter of Appreciation, or thank you card, sent to them or invite to the police department to receive recognition
  
- Follow-up with arrested impaired drivers
  - Promote the campaign with literature placed in inmate property
  - Encourage arrestee to seek alcohol or drug treatment by providing a list of helpful resources while still in the city jail

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- Police prevention initiatives
  - Reducing Impaired Driving Enforcement (RIDE) Program
    - Plainclothes officers target prospective drivers by arresting them for Public Intoxication (before they are able to operate the vehicle)
      - Create an annual schedule
      - Once per month goal
  - Advertise through all mediums that we are going to be conducting this type of enforcement throughout the city
    - Have results posted on all media outlets
    - Ask colleges to send this report to students through e-mail and college media.
  - Designate Avenue A between Mulberry and Fry St. into a ridesharing area by creating a lane along the west side curb, dedicated for vehicles to line-up for rides. Use public campaign to encourage Uber and Lyft drivers to station in lane during late bar hours (see Appendix A)
  - Patrol officers seek alternatives to arrests for intoxicated persons found in vehicles, who have *intentionally* chosen not to drive drunk. For example, the officer could work out a viable solution to get the person alternative transportation in lieu of an arrest for public intoxication
- Track and reward prevention performance
  - Develop a list of prevention “key performance indicators” (KPI) for Department personnel
    - Track the quality and quantity of prevention KPI’s
    - Include data in annual evaluations
    - Bestow Chief’s Commendations and “Excellence In Policing” awards for outstanding prevention performance

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### **Enforcement:**

The Denton Police Department seeks to be the very best in its enforcement practices so that impaired drivers are routinely located, arrested, and subsequently prosecuted with the highest chances of success. In order to achieve this vision, the Department must be pro-active while at the same time being immediately responsive to calls of intoxicated drivers.

- Improve the culture at Denton PD towards DWI enforcement
  - Field Training Officer Program – All Field Training Officers (FTO's) must be committed to DWI enforcement
    - Exchange DWI Enforcement Officers with FTO's for short periods of time
  - Incorporate a full day of DWI training in the post academy recruit orientation
  - Each recruit officer spends one three day weekend with a DWI Enforcement Officer
  - Regular training for officers so that there is an understanding of just how important DWI enforcement is to the safety of the community
  - Regular positive re-enforcement of the importance of our DWI initiative
  - Notify Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) in order to recognize outstanding officer and Department performance
  
- Improve response to DWI Calls, enforcement, and officer safety
  - In clear cases of intoxicated drivers being followed by a citizen, officer responds with a Code III response to ensure that driver is stopped as soon as possible
  - Officer continues to try and locate intoxicated driver after leaving the city limits if reasonable
  - Strategic placement of DWI officers near hotspots so that quick response is enhanced
  - Market and encourage STEP overtime for officers during peak DWI hours
  - Evaluate expansion of DWI Enforcement personnel over the next two years
  - Back-up officer assigned to each DWI investigation and is directly involved in the post arrest procedure at the hospital when applicable
  
- Training and certification

The emergent trend in Driving While Intoxicated trend is “drugged driving.” The legalization of marijuana in Texas is a real possibility so preparation must begin soon so that officers are prepared.

  - ✓ Designate a Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST) proficiency officer, in charge of:
    - SFST instructor cadre
    - Delivery of curriculum
    - Two year certification for applicable officers (patrol and traffic)

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- All patrol officers and sergeants trained on Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) once every two years.
  - ARIDE Training provides SFST refresher as part of the curriculum
  - Create and maintain dashboard to show dates of last training and who is due
- Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) program for DWI Enforcement officers and any other interested patrol officer
  - All DRE certified officers to obtain TCOLE instructors certification as they will be certified to teach ARIDE courses
- Retrain all Patrol and Traffic Officers on the proactive detection of DWI offenders
  - ✓ All patrol officers receive efficiency training on how to streamline the DWI process after the arrest is made (blood draw and warrant process)
    - Track to ensure each officer has this training. All recruit officers directly train with DWI enforcement officer on this process
    - Inefficient officers identified by supervisors and given individualized training with enforcement officer, and then monitored for performance improvement
- Legal Aspects of DWI training provided every two years
  - All patrol officers, sergeants, and lieutenants receive legal training
  - Coordinate with District Attorney's office to ensure they participate in the training
- Succession planning into DWI enforcement positions for interested officers
  - Officers used by commanders to supplement DWI enforcement on regular shifts
  - Officers temporarily assigned to DWI enforcement unit for knowledge, skills, and abilities enhancement
  - Patrol shift officers incorporated into special DWI holiday enforcement or any task force initiatives
- Track and reward enforcement performance
  - Develop a list of enforcement "key performance indicators (KPI) for Department personnel
    - Track the quality and quantity of enforcement KPI's
    - Include data in annual evaluations
    - Consider Chief's Commendations and "Excellence In Policing" awards for outstanding enforcement performance
- Adopt a "no refusal" policy on all DWI's
  - Start with major holiday weekends and major festivals first
  - Create a schedule with local magistrates to spread out the warrant acquisitions
  - Maintain an easily accessible and updated list of magistrates in digital format

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- Equipment
  - Install rear facing mobile video cameras in all Traffic Section vehicles including motorcycles
  - Install printers in DWI enforcement units to speed up warrant process
  - Install “Pro-guard” barrier in one side of rear seat which allows for easy clean-up
  - Purchase Portable Breath Test (PBT) equipment to help confirm decision
  - Make sure that every stop has in-car camera audio footage in addition to body worn camera. In-car camera footage must show the feet of the motorist during the Walk and Turn and One Leg Stand
    - Shift supervisors audit the e-file case to ensure:
      - In-car camera audio is stored with follow-up done for incorrect filings.
      - In-car camera footage properly displays the field sobriety testing so as to maximize the visual evidence
  
- Create a DWI task force made up of Denton County law enforcement agencies
  - Check the possibility of working with nearby agencies to conduct enforcement at the same time
    - Inter-local agreement like the commercial motor vehicle Memorandum of Understanding
      - Create SARA plan on how to use Task Force
    - Conduct regular meetings and training sessions together

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### Prosecution:

The Denton Police Department hopes to maximize its relationship with the District Attorney's Office so that impediments to successful prosecution can be identified early and corrected for all personnel.

- Supervisor tracks all acquittals to determine how officer performance attributed to the result
  - o Traffic sergeant routinely checks in with DA DWI enforcement team to determine any trends or important information that will improve performance. That information shared with all of Denton Police Department and neighboring agencies
- Make sure all evidence is saved for the prosecution including all videos from back-up officers and in car camera footage, and any officer field notes.
- Document any evidence and crash scenes with still photography in addition to video footage.
- 911 Calls are required for E-File so supervisor ensures case file is complete

### Victim Services:

The Denton Police Department will promote victim services by working with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) to ensure victims and survivors receive available services which include:

- Support and peer groups
- Free Resources and Referrals – networking with support agencies
- Communicate with the Denton County DA's Victim Assistance Office and provide support, resources specific to drunk/drugged driving and receive referrals from them; we have a Spanish speaking advocate who can assist and translate as needed
- Free materials on trauma, grief, death, injury, child endangerment; Photo Display of loved ones injured or killed by DD
- Private chat room for victims/survivors of DD
- Texas Social Media blogs, stories, tips and more

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# Appendix

Appendix A: Proposed street change for ridesharing at Avenue A/Fry bar area

