***Media Relations Information for 03/20/2012***

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**LPPD offers no spring Break for drunk drivers.**

As part of their participation in TXDOT’s 2012 Impaired Driving Mobilization (IDM) grant project, La Porte Police made a concerted effort to target drunk drivers over the Spring Break period. Under the grant, additional LPPD officers were deployed during designated holiday periods to specifically watch for impaired drivers operating on local roadways.

From Friday night (March 9th) through Sunday morning (March 18th), La Porte officers made a total of ten arrests for Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) and issued two citations to minors who were discovered Driving Under the Influence (DUI). To add to the general arrests numbers, La Porte’s final statistical review also revealed that of the listed ten DWI arrests, two were categorized as Felony level as they involved child passengers who were under the age of 15. Furthermore, two of the DWI arrests included additional charges for Possession of Marijuana.

Officer Bennie Boles, who was heavily involved in the project, commented that the program has already proven a worthwhile success, as this year’s results represent a major increase in arrests from last year’s Spring Break DWI/DUI prevention efforts.

LPPD reminds motorists that the department places high priority on watching for impaired drivers on a daily basis and that anyone suspected of being intoxicated while driving will be arrested, have their vehicle impounded, and risk losing their drivers license. As an added feature under the IDM project, suspected intoxicated drivers who refuse to provide a breath test will be the subject of a search warrant and will have their blood mandatorily drawn for blood alcohol level testing. The next two IDM periods are currently scheduled for Independence Day week (June 30 and July 1 – 8) and the week of Labor Day (Aug 19 – Sept 5).

For more information on La Porte Police Department’s involvement in the Impaired Driving Mobilization (IDM) grant project, please contact the agency at 281-842-3167.