



Rick Staly, Sheriff

## FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."*

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# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** Friday, December 15, 2017

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## **Don't Let the Grinch Steal Your Christmas Money** **Increased Patrols and DUI Enforcement through New Year's Eve**

The holiday season is known for being merry and bright, but the holidays are also known for being the deadliest time of year when it comes to impaired driving. This year the Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) is participating in an enforcement, education, and awareness operation within Flagler County to reduce and deter drunk driving, crashes, speeding, aggressive driving, and crimes of opportunity.



In addition to responding to calls for service FCSO patrol, motor, bicycle, and DUI units will have increased countywide presence from Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>. The FCSO will also be parking the FCSO Sheriff-Taxi car at various locations with hopes that it will serve as a reminder to the community to arrange a ride home if they will be drinking alcohol.

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The Motor Unit will have traffic enforcement operations throughout the week at high crash locations to deter speeding. Some special characters may be seen assisting the Motor Unit with their details.

Patrol deputies and the Bike Unit will be monitoring high traffic areas as well as businesses with the goal of reducing and preventing holiday crimes of opportunity. Deputies will remind citizens to lock their car doors and hide valuables, be aware of their surroundings and stay alert, and never leave a purse, wallet, or cell phone inside a vehicle or shopping cart. Only park in handicapped spaces if you are handicapped. Spaces are limited and the parking lots are crowded this time of year. Plus, it's against the law.

DUI Units will be enforcing sober driving every weekend through the rest of 2017. Choose a designated sober driver before attending a holiday party or a night out. An Uber ride will cost much less than a DUI. Message boards will also be displayed with the message "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over."

"Stay on Santa's nice list and keep this holiday season merry and bright," Sheriff Rick Staly said. "If you drink and drive, we will provide pick-up and delivery for your stay at the Green Roof Inn, but an Uber to your home would be much cheaper. It's your choice."

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