Herndon Police Department
Impaired Driving

Town of Herndon

The Town of Herndon is the third largest town in the Commonwealth of Virginia and home to more than 23,500 residents. Located in Western Fairfax County, Herndon is just 22 miles from downtown Washington D.C., and minutes from Dulles International Airport. The Town of Herndon is home to 11 parks and the W&OD biking trail that runs through the heart of the downtown area. Amidst a 21st century Northern Virginia landscape of high rise buildings, industrial complexes, and transportation hubs, Herndon maintains a small town charm that is evident in its commercial center and its neighborhoods.

The Herndon Police Department has 55 sworn officers, with 38 of those officers tasked with patrol and traffic enforcement duties. The growing business base coupled with the proximity to growth in surrounding jurisdictions continues to congest roadways in Herndon, especially during peak commuting periods. With this large volume of traffic, the Herndon Police Department conducts numerous traffic safety programs to address impaired driving, speeding and other violations, and occupant protection compliance, in an effort to reduce accidents.

Problem Identification

The detection and arrest of the impaired driver has always been a high priority for the Herndon Police. There were 129 arrests made by the department for driving while intoxicated during 2015, representing a 9% increase from the 118 arrests made in 2014. In contrast, there were 19 crashes in the jurisdiction in 2015 where alcohol was a contributing factor. This number represented a 41% decrease from the 31 that occurred in 2014. It is gratifying to note the positive results of targeted DUI enforcement efforts, including increased arrests and significantly lowered accidents, but we recognize that alcohol/drug impaired driving remains a valid concern in our jurisdiction and enforcement efforts to deter drinking and driving must continue.

The department's annual traffic analysis includes a review of crash data and traffic enforcement activities in order to identify temporal factors such as location, time-of-day, day-of-week, and month-of-year when crashes are most prevalent, and findings are verified in our DMV grant data based on incidents. In 2015, we applied these factors to establish specific locations and timeframes for DUI checkpoints and saturation patrols throughout the year. Of the 129 DUI arrests in 2015, 10 DUI arrests, notwithstanding other violations, resulted from the checkpoints and saturation patrols. The checkpoints are successful and based on these results, two checkpoints and numerous saturation patrols are planned for 2016.

Proactive DUI saturation patrol efforts, DUI checkpoints and safety programs such as *Checkpoint Strike Force and Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month,* contributed to the Department's prevention efforts and problem identification. Participation in national prevention programs, checkpoints and s*ix-pack patrols* (enhanced enforcement efforts) were conducted in conjunction with festive times of the year, i.e. New Year's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, further validating the need for continued vigilance in impaired driving enforcement efforts. The department also supplements these campaigns with separate initiatives to educate community members, as well as local restaurant and bar employees about the dangers of drunk driving, and collaborates operations with the

Virginia Alcohol and Beverage Control Board to target businesses that may be selling to underage consumers.

Policies – See Policy Attachment

Planning

The Department's annual Traffic Analysis includes a review of crash data and traffic enforcement activities from 2014, and established goals for 2015 to decrease crashes where alcohol was a factor. Strategies for attaining these goals included enhancing DUI enforcement through the use of checkpoints, making holiday enforcement and saturation patrols a priority, and stressing the importance of DUI enforcement to patrol officers who have the opportunity to make the majority of impaired driving arrests. These goals served as the foundation for the 2015 operational plan. The plan for the year was to conduct selective enforcement to decrease impaired accidents and increase DUI arrests, organize proactive enforcement through checkpoints and targeted patrols, and to educate and promote DUI enforcement to agency members as well as to community stakeholders.

All of these strategies coincide with Virginia's Strategic Traffic Plan in strengthening DUI/DUID enforcement programs, conducting education and training on impaired drivers, developing and implementing programs to reduce underage drinking and driving, and developing and implementing programs to reduce recidivism.

Our annual Traffic Analysis and DMV grant data identified the fact that alcohol/drug related crashes occurred on weekends between 5pm to 4am. The data also identified primary locations for impaired associated crashes. In 2015, DUI checkpoints and roving saturation patrols were established according to those timeframes and locations. Also, as a routine operation, a selective enforcement guide was distributed monthly to target enforcement efforts for specific violations according to locations, days and timeframes. Selective traffic enforcement forms were completed for each assignment on a daily basis and submitted to the Traffic Section supervisor for compilation.

The Herndon Police Department also created traffic safety strategies in conjunction with selective traffic enforcement efforts and with the Town's Traffic Engineering and Improvement Committee (TEIC). The TEIC is a partnership of traffic engineers, public works staff and police personnel formed to address citizen complaints, road engineering deficiencies, and other traffic safety issues. The primary focus of traffic concerns between the TEIC partnership and the police department was to improve the free flow and safe passage of traffic within the Town.

The department planned and implemented proactive enforcement strategies by conducting DUI checkpoints, saturation patrols around New Year's eve, St. Patrick's Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas, and during the *Checkpoint Strike Force* and *Drunk and Drugged Driving* prevention campaigns. These planned activities augmented the routine patrols selected for targeted enforcement. In addition, the department initiated an operation to identify establishments selling alcohol to underage buyers.

The department stressed the problem in Herndon of alcohol/drug impaired driving and the importance of enforcement efforts to decrease crashes where alcohol was a factor. Activities that were considered to help enforcement efforts included tracking bars associated with the impaired driver, conducting selective enforcement during certain timeframes and at specific locations, and training Breathalyzer operators. A direct effort by the department to meet with employees at local restaurants and bars to

discuss the dangers of drunk driving and to encourage them to do their part to prevent impaired driving was valuable for the community.

Training

TRAINING ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF THE HERNDON POLICE DEPARTMENT IN 2015

Type of Training	Activity	Participants
Motor Carrier Safety	Refresher Training	2 Officers
Intoxilyzer Operator	Certification	4 Officers
Police Motorcycle Operations	Re-cert	5 Officers
Mid-Atlantic DUI Conference	Education	2 Officers

PRIOR TRAINING USED BY MEMBERS OF THE HERNDON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Training is an important part of the department's ongoing mission to promote and increase safety on the roadways. Maintaining specialized certifications in crash investigations, utilizing speed and alcohol detection devices, and other safety related training keeps the department prepared and proactive. The following table shows the current certifications utilized by department personnel throughout the year in its enforcement efforts.

Current Certifications Utilized	Participants
Motor Carrier Safety	2 Officers
Breath Alcohol Operators	7 Officers
DWI Detection and Field Sobriety Testing	38 Officers
Motorcycle Operations	6 Officers
Advanced Crash Investigations, Level 1	12 Officers
Advanced Crash Investigations, Level 2	6 Officers
Advanced Crash Investigations, Level 3	5 Officers
Advanced Motorcycle Crash Investigations	4 Officers
Drug Recognition Experts	4 Officers

Training at the Herndon Police Department is an ongoing requirement. Every member of the department attends required training through academy level in-service training, roll call training, or departmental mandatory training. Roll call training is utilized to provide specific information on special enforcement initiatives to include alcohol enforcement initiatives. This training also focuses on the education of traffic laws concerning motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians. Every officer with traffic safety enforcement duties receives this training. Additionally, during 2015, members of the department received specializied training in motor carrier safety, crash investigation and reconstruction, and breath alcohol operator recertification.

These classes included Breathalyzer operator courses through the Virginia Department of Forensic Science, motor carrier safety, traffic grant writing seminars, the *Law Enforcement Challenge* preparation seminar, and police motorcycle operations to augment traffic enforcement efforts. As with many other area jurisdictions who have experienced a decrease in the training budget, the department has had to make the most of our training dollars. Despite budget cuts, the Herndon Police Department has attained its training objectives while keeping traffic safety a primary focus of the training process.

In 2015, members of the Traffic Section continued to use training they received from the Department of Motor Vehicles - Virginia Highway Safety Office. The various courses on Crash Investigation and Reconstruction along with annual in-service training on Motor Carrier Safety helped officers investigate causes of crashes and conduct motor carrier safety inspections in an effort to make our roadways safe. Two officers attended the Mid-Atlantic DUI conference which provides the latest information on detection, enforcement strategies, and equipment. The importance of DUI enforcement was also emphasized to patrol officers by agency leadership, and resulted in a significant increase in our DUI arrests for the year.

Five officers attended various in-house training courses throughout the year in mapping intersections as part of the Crash Reconstruction Team. One member of the department attended the DMV Grant Seminar. The DMV grant writing seminar provided us with important information that helped us earn over $46,000 in DMV traffic safety grants. This funding has allowed us to increase enforcement efforts, purchase equipment, and provide training for officers.

Public Information and Education

Special Programs and Community Policing

In 2015, the Department held a Youth Police Academy which included educational information on drinking and driving. Students received hands-on instruction about the dangers of impaired driving with the use of a DUI simulator and "Drunk Vision Goggles". Graduates of the academy experienced the impairment through fun scenarios and were encouraged to relate their experiences with others. These same training tools are also used with local youth who attend the Fairfax County "Road Dawg" program, an educational prevention program that works with at-risk kids. The Herndon Police Department is a member of the Fairfax County Oversight Committee on Drinking and Driving, which is made up of safety advocates, local police departments, citizen groups and the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County. This committee discusses best practices for enforcement and education programs in the respective jurisdictions.

November 6th 2015
Youth Police Academy

Press Releases and Events

Prior to all traffic safety and educational initiatives, the Public Information Officer (PIO) of the Herndon Police Department issues a press release outlining the Department's intentions during the scheduled programs. The press releases to local news media provide information on scheduled checkpoints and results for DUI arrests. The press releases are listed on the department's webpage and also communicated through our Twitter account.

On December 2, 2015, members of the Department hosted a special meeting with a local alcohol distributor to discuss DUI prevention and awareness prior to the upcoming holiday DUI safety campaign. During the event, pamphlets and posters for "Sober Ride" and other prevention tools were distributed and discussed. The Herndon Police Department appreciates community partners and fosters business relationships to keep lines of communication open and active.

On December 11, 2015 the Herndon Police Department attended the 18th Annual Washington Regional Alcohol Program Awards Ceremony to honor officers in the *Fight against Drunk Drivers*. The Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is an award-winning public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths consistently lower than the national average. WRAP, however, may best be known to area residents via the organization's popular free cab ride service for would-be drunk drivers, *Sober Ride*. In attendance were representatives of law enforcement agencies from Washington D.C., Maryland and Virginia. The featured speaker in attendance was the NHTSA Administrator Mark Rosekind and Melissa Mollet, traffic reporter for NBC 4. During the event, officers were honored for their outstanding commitment in the fight against drunk driving.

18th Annual Washington Regional Alcohol Program Awards Ceremony for Fight Against Drunk Drivers

Enforcement Activity

Alcohol/drug impaired driving remains a significant problem in Herndon. Special enforcement efforts were coordinated in 2015 to facilitate the identification of offenders. The plan was to make arrests and thereby decrease DUI accidents. The Department implemented the plan through grant-funded enforcement and specialized campaigns.

Regular Duty Enforcement

Officers in Patrol and the Traffic Section conduct enforcement operations as part of their daily responsibilities to combat alcohol/drug related driving. Each year MADD awards Herndon Police Department officers for their outstanding enforcement efforts against drunk driving and underage drinking. In 2015, two officers received awards for their combined enforcement efforts which accounted for 35% percent of the department's DUI arrests. In 2015, the department had 129 DUI arrests, and 119 of these arrests were performed during regular duty operations.

Grant Funded Enforcement

The DMV grant funded one sobriety checkpoint and 74 saturation patrols that were conducted to deter and apprehend intoxicated drivers. The checkpoint was very successful in alerting potential violators that the police department was proactive and serious towards DUI enforcement. Over 1,900 drivers were stopped during saturation patrols and checkpoints, 10 DUI arrests were made, and 286 citations were issued for other traffic related offenses. **Through our checkpoints and saturation patrols, 579 hours of grant-funded overtime was used.** All of the grant-funded hours for checkpoints and saturation patrols were performed during targeted times.

Specialized Campaigns

The Herndon Police Department participated in the following concentrated enforcement campaigns or initiatives in 2015:

Checkpoint Strike Force
Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over
Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month
Holiday Six-Pack Patrol
Smart Safe and Sober
Sobriety Checkpoints
Underage Drinking Enforcement Initiative – Joint Operation

2015 DUI STATISTICS	
DUI Arrests	129
DUI Arrests in Target Areas	10
DUI Arrests During Target Times	10

Outcomes

The Herndon Police Department has made a concerted effort to combat alcohol/drug impaired driving through the use of selective and routine enforcement measures whereby regular duty patrol officers make detection and apprehension of drunk drivers a priority. In addition, special proactive enforcement efforts included saturation patrols, DUI checkpoints, and other safety campaigns. The Department also reached out to the community and provided preventative education aimed at the offender, businesses, and the community at large. The goal of these efforts was to make a positive impact on the community by reducing alcohol related accidents to ensure safer roadways.

Analysis from selective enforcement patrols and statistical data was conducted to more accurately identify factors that could help focus enforcement efforts for selective and routine enforcement. This data was used to plan operations, channel and review efforts, and to monitor the results. Temporal data was utilized to specifically plan proactive enforcement activities throughout the year.

DUI checkpoints and roving saturation patrols were established according to timeframes and specific locations. **Checkpoints and saturation patrols produced 10 DUI arrests, and 286 traffic related violations.**

Participation in checkpoints and safety campaigns facilitated **education for community members** by demonstrating the department's intended purpose behind its planned enforcement activities, highlighting the seriousness of alcohol/drug impaired driving, or through the experience of being one of the thousands of drivers to go through a checkpoint. **Impaired drivers arrested for DUI received an experiential education** when convicted of this offense by losing driving privileges and having to complete an alcohol education program. **Members of the department met with a local alcohol distributor to discuss the dangers of drunk driving and to encourage them to do their part to prevent impaired driving. Members also conducted meetings with community leaders and business owners during the December impaired driving enforcement campaign to discuss DUI prevention and to increase awareness.**

For 2016, the Herndon Police Department will make the detection and apprehension of impaired drivers a high priority. The 2016 goals will include prevention strategies to include addressing underage drivers as a primary goal in 2016. Once again the Department will work to decrease accidents due to alcohol/drug impairment. While the 2015 results are admirable, in 2016 more focus must be placed on decreasing alcohol related crashes. In 2015 alcohol related accidents represented 2.6% of the total 706 crashes in the Town of Herndon, which was a small decrease from 4.5 % in 2014. This goal will only be attained through continued participation in traffic safety programs and active enforcement and educational efforts.

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Awards and Recognition

The department and several members received several awards and recognition for impaired driving enforcement efforts in 2015. The awards are highlighted below:

MADD Awards

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) recognized Herndon Police Officers Calo and Findley for their exceptional efforts toward combating drunk driving and excellence in community service and public safety on May 1, 2015.

MADD Awards
May 01, 2015

WRAP Awards

On December 11, 2015 the Herndon Police Department attended the 18th Annual Washington Regional Alcohol Program Awards Ceremony. Officer Calo was one of few in Northern Virginia recognized for his outstanding efforts against Drunk Driving.

Law Enforcement Challenge Award

At the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police Conference on September 1, 2015, the Herndon Police Department received the first place award in the 2014 Law Enforcement Challenge for Municipal Police Departments with 55-75 members.

Law Enforcement Challenge Award
September 01, 2015