

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 MIDDLESEX DISTRICT ATTORNEY
 15 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE WOBURN, MA 01801
 WWW.MIDDLESEXDA.COM



TEL: 781-897-8300
 FAX: 781-897-8301

MARIAN T. RYAN
 DISTRICT ATTORNEY

EXECUTIVE

- ADMINISTRATION
- COMMUNICATIONS
- INTERVENTION & PREVENTION PROGRAMS
- PUBLIC POLICY
- LEGISLATION
- VICTIM WITNESS BUREAU

TRIAL TEAMS

- CAMBRIDGE REGION SUPERIOR COURT
- MALDEN REGION SUPERIOR COURT
- WOBURN DISTRICT COURT

SPECIALTY UNITS

- APPEALS & TRAINING BUREAU
- CYBER PROTECTION PROGRAM
- FAMILY PROTECTION BUREAU
- CHILD PROTECTION UNIT
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT
- ELDER/DISABLED UNIT
- SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT (SIU)

STATE POLICE DETECTIVES

- COMPUTER FORENSICS
- HOMICIDE
- SIU

REGIONAL OFFICES

- CAMBRIDGE
- FRAMINGHAM
- LOWELL

DISTRICT COURT OFFICES

- AYER
- CAMBRIDGE
- CONCORD
- FRAMINGHAM
- LOWELL
- MALDEN
- MARLBOROUGH
- NEWTON
- SOMERVILLE
- WALTHAM
- WOBURN

April 13, 2015

Dear Middlesex County Parents and Guardians:

With prom and graduation season upon us we wanted to connect with you to urge you to do all that you can to make it a happy and safe time for you and your teen.

Car crashes are the leading cause of death for young adults between the ages of 15-19 and many of those deaths are caused by impaired or distracted driving.

Driving after drinking any amount of alcohol or taking any amount of drugs could potentially result in impairment and a criminal charge for Operating Under the Influence (OUI). For those under the age of 21, driving under the influence in Massachusetts is defined by a 0.02 blood alcohol level, or impairment due to alcohol or other drugs. This blood alcohol or impairment level easily can be reached by consuming just one drink or a small amount of prescription or illegal drugs, and it carries the potential for serious criminal penalties, especially if someone is injured or killed.

As a parent or guardian, you can help ensure the safety of your children and others by helping them make the right choices around drinking and driving. Your involvement, along with proactive education and the deterrent efforts of law enforcement, is a key component to preventing alcohol-related tragedies.

In support of school and community efforts to provide safe post-prom and graduation activities for students, the Middlesex District Attorney's Office is again offering a contribution of \$500 to help defray expenses associated with substance-free post-prom and graduation events.

If you choose to host a party where you serve alcohol to those under the age of 21 you may be subject to criminal charges, or be held liable if one of your guests drinks alcohol and harms themselves or others by driving under the influence. Even if you are not actively providing alcohol to underage drinkers, it is a dangerous choice to allow teen drinking parties to take place in your home.

With these dangers in mind, we encourage you to take steps to provide your children with the following alternatives to getting behind the wheel:

- Offer your teen transportation alternatives. Provide your teen a ride or have a sibling or family friend provide rides on prom night.
- Give your teen a cell phone or other mobile device to communicate with you directly throughout the night. Make sure you have your own cell phone or



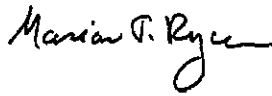
April 13, 2015
Page 2

- mobile device with you during the evening to facilitate texts or quick calls to check in. Being in close contact throughout the night can help prevent bad choices being made at the end of the evening.

We have seen first-hand the devastating impact that driving under the influence can have on parents, families, friends and communities, and we urge you to be proactive in preventing teenage impaired and distracted driving. We believe these alternatives will help to discourage drinking and driving without infringing on your child's desire for independence.

Please feel free to contact Stephanie Guyotte of Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc., our prevention partner, at (781) 897-8333 with any questions that you may have or if you would like further information on teenage drinking and driving.

Sincerely,



Marian T. Ryan
District Attorney
Middlesex County



Charles Lyons
Superintendent-Director