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## **Roanoke County Police 'No Refusal' Weekend**

*Keeping Our Roads Safe this Halloween Weekend*

(Roanoke County, VA) - The Roanoke County Police Department will be utilizing the 'No Refusal' program from October 30th through November 1st in an effort to crack down on drinking and driving during this Halloween weekend. The 'No Refusal' program simply means that if a driver refuses to submit to a breath test after being arrested for driving under the influence then the officer will apply for a search warrant with the Magistrate. If the Magistrate is satisfied with the probable cause for the arrest, a search warrant will be issued and medical staff at the Sherrif's Office will draw a blood sample which will be submitted to the Department of Forensic Science for a toxicology test.

The 'No Refusal' program gives the Commonwealth's Attorney Office the most critical evidence needed to prosecute a DUI offense when a driver refuses to submit to a breath test- a chemical analysis of the alcohol and/or drugs present in the driver. An analysis of DUI arrests in Roanoke County revealed that only about 20% of drivers arrested have refused to submit to a breath test.

The 'No Refusal' program not only gives prosecutors critical evidence needed so successfully prosecute but also sends a clear message that impaired driving is not acceptable on the roads in Roanoke County. The Roanoke County Police Department will utilize all legal means to insure that such drivers are held accountable for such a potentially deadly offense this Halloween weekend. We want all children and their families to be safe while walking through the neighborhoods. If your Halloween festivities include alcohol, just have a plan to get home safely.

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