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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

9 December 2011

TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT

Mayor Carlo DeMaria Jr. and Police Chief Steven Mazzie announced today the receipt of a \$4,950 grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety Highway safety Division as part of the 2012 Traffic Enforcement Grant Program.

The grant money will be used to conduct high-visibility traffic enforcement of motor vehicle laws, including but not limited to, speeding and aggressive driving, impaired driving and occupant protection.

“Our first use of the monies will be in support of the National Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Campaign” stated Mazzie.

The problem of impaired driving is a serious one. Data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration shows the number of alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities in America fell from 2008 to 2009, but the numbers are still too high.

In 2009 alone, 10,839 people died in crashes in which a driver or motorcycle rider was at or above the legal limit, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The age group with the highest percentage of alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities in motor vehicle traffic crashes was the 21-to-24 age group.

“The message is simple: if we find you driving impaired, we will arrest you. No exceptions,” stated Mazzie. “Even if you beat the odds and manage to walk away from an impaired-driving crash alive, the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving while impaired can still destroy your life.”

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