



PAULDING COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

SHERIFF GARY GULLEDGE
247 INDUSTRIAL WAY N
DALLAS, GA 30132

OFFICE (770)443-3010
JAIL (770)443-3030
FAX (770)443-3014

Media Contact: Corporal Ashley Henson
770-505-5535 Office
678-247-3903 Cell
678-224-4799 Fax
ashley.henson@paulding.gov
www.paulding.gov/sheriff

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For Immediate Release

PAULDING COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ***Awarded \$69,800.00 H.E.A.T. Enforcement Grant Renewal***

(Paulding County, GA) The Paulding County Sheriff's Office has been awarded a renewal of a major, public safety partnership H.E.A.T. grant totaling **\$69,800.00** from the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) in Atlanta. H.E.A.T, which stands for ***Highway Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic***, includes the primary goals of (1) reducing impaired driving crashes; (2) reducing excessive speeding; (3) increasing the safety belt usage rate; and (4) educating the public about traffic safety.

The Paulding County Sheriff's H.E.A.T. Unit will develop and implement strategies to reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities from drugs and alcohol, speed and aggressive driving, and non-use of safety belts within their jurisdiction. The grant renewal went into effect on October 1, 2013 and will continue until September 30 of this year.

"The H.E.A.T. grant helps support the Paulding County Sheriff's enforcement efforts and is a reminder of their dedication in supporting the GOHS mission to protect Georgians from speeders and impaired drivers," said GOHS Director Harris Blackwood. "Crashes involving impaired drivers killed 301 people across Georgia in 2012. The chance of a fatal crash involving drivers impaired by drugs or alcohol is much higher than the rate for fatal crashes not related to impairment."

H.E.A.T. programs based on impaired driving and speeding data include 22 Georgia counties and have covered most of Metro Atlanta. The H.E.A.T. initiative was designed to serve Georgia jurisdictions with the highest rates of crashes, injuries and deaths.

"The H.E.A.T. initiative seeks to increase the impaired driver arrests, reduce dangerous speeders, educate the public about the dangers of DUI and provide a high visibility



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enforcement profile in the communities that need it most," said GOHS Director Blackwood.

Georgia's **H.E.A.T.** Units consistently provide the kind of high-profile traffic law enforcement required to save lives on our highways. For more information about the GOHS **H.E.A.T.** initiative contact Lt. Scarlett Woods, **H.E.A.T.** Coordinator, at (404) 656-6996 or swoods@gohs.ga.gov . To learn about other lifesaving highway safety campaigns, visit us on the web at www.gahighwaysafety.org .

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