



Harris County Precinct 8 Phil Sandlin, Constable

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PRESS RELEASE

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On this Independence Day weekend, like every weekend, Precinct 8 Deputies will be proactively patrolling the streets of Harris County to seek out and arrest those who make the choice to drink and drive. This completely preventable crime continues to be the leading cause of fatality traffic crashes in Texas, with Harris County leading the nation in the number of such incidents.

According to the Texas Department of Transportation, the cost associated with a DWI conviction can range anywhere from \$5000 to \$26,000. In addition, confinement for a DWI conviction can range from 180 days in jail to 10 years in prison (or more) depending on how many previous convictions an offender has and if a death results.

Since 2019, Precinct 8 alone has filed approximately 1,000 DWI cases in Harris County. That equates to an average of one DWI arrest a day, every day, since January 1, 2019. Constable Sandlin has made it very clear that Precinct 8 will continue to make DWI enforcement a high priority for this agency. According to a 2019 Houston Chronicle article, the Harris County Precinct 8 Constable's Office ranked sixth in the region for the number of DWI cases filed since 2015, only surpassed by some of the largest departments in Harris County. Though some may find this a surprising statistic, it is simply due to the diligence of the Deputies who remain focused on combating this problem and we will continue to do so.

Our hope is that drivers will heed the warnings and take law enforcement's advice to choose an alternate way to travel the roadways if they've been consuming alcohol. In an age where ride shares, cabs and other alternative choices to travel are so easy to obtain, there is no excuse for someone who chooses to get behind the wheel intoxicated.

As announced yesterday, the La Porte Police Department is hosting a DWI initiative this weekend and Precinct 8 will be joining forces with neighboring local agencies as well as state agencies patrolling area roadways and waterways in an effort to prevent tragedies that result from intoxicated driving. So please, be safe this holiday weekend as we pause to celebrate our nation's freedom. If alcohol is in your plans, please drink responsibly.

Jason Finnen, Chief Deputy

Harris County Precinct 8 Constable's Office