



## NEWS RELEASE

### HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### H-GAC Continuing Regional DWI Task Force for July 4 Weekend

*Additional police units will be on the streets during July 4 holiday*

HOUSTON – The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Regional DWI Task Force, which consists of 12 law enforcement agencies throughout the Houston-Galveston area, will be operating before and after the July 4 holiday to lower incidents of driving while intoxicated. The task force is funded through a Selective Traffic Enforcement Program grant awarded by the Texas Department of Transportation. This initiative provides overtime funds for agencies to provide enhanced DWI enforcement during holiday weekends when more alcohol-related traffic incidents occur. Since its inception in 2013, the task force has made 1,087 DWI arrests.

Convicted first-time DWI offenders can pay a fine up to \$2,000, serve six months in jail, lose their driver's license for up to a year, and pay an additional \$3,000 to retain their license. Safety officials say other costs associated with an impaired driving arrest and conviction can add up to more than \$17,000 for bail, legal fees, court appearances, court-ordered classes, vehicle insurance increases, and other expenses.

According to the H-GAC 2017 State of Safety Report, one in five traffic fatalities in the Houston-Galveston area are caused by DWI motor vehicle crashes.

"Think before you drink," said Stephan Gage, Principal Transportation Planner at H-GAC. "If you choose to drink, appoint a designated driver or arrange for a ride home."

For more information, visit [h-gac.com](http://h-gac.com).

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H-GAC is a voluntary association of local governments in the 13-county Gulf Coast Planning Region—an area of 12,500 square miles and seven million people. H-GAC is designated by the State of Texas as the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization for transportation planning in Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller Counties.