

Remarks prepared for
David Strickland
Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

For the:
Office of National Drug Control Policy
Press Event
June 22, 2010
Washington, D.C.

Thank you. I am grateful for the opportunity to stand side by side with our Nation's Drug Czar and the District of Columbia's Chief of Police Cathy Lanier to work against the crime of impaired driving.

We are quickly approaching the July 4th holiday, and with summertime holiday travel plans comes increased concern about drivers who drink alcohol or use drugs before they get behind the wheel. Holidays are especially risky. While about 32 percent of all drivers killed in crashes during 2008 had a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher, during the Fourth of July Holiday period that proportion increased to 43 percent.

These numbers are unacceptable. We will not be satisfied until we eliminate this deadly crime from our roadways.

We will not be satisfied until motorists can hit the road for holiday travel – or at any other time of the year – without fear of being injured or killed by an impaired driver.

That is why we pledge our support to our law enforcement partners and express our continued appreciation for their efforts to keep our roads safe.

Driving while impaired by drugs or alcohol or riding with someone who is impaired is not worth the risk. The consequences are serious and real. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving while impaired can be significant and not the way you want to celebrate the July 4th holiday.

Impaired driving is one of the most serious and preventable dangers we face on our roadways. And I am asking you to do something about it. Making our roads safe for our families starts with personal responsibility... putting children in car seats and

booster seats... buckling up ... and giving the keys to
someone else when you are not fit to drive.

Thank you.