



Florida Police Chiefs Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 25, 2016

MEDIA CONTACT: Sandi Poreda, APR
850.766.1906/ sandi@bulldogstrategygroup.com

POLICE CHIEFS: CELEBRATE SAFELY DURING PROM, GRADUATION SEASON

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Florida Police Chiefs Association today issued a safety advisory encouraging young Floridians to choose safety during prom and graduation season by making responsible decisions and avoiding any impaired driving. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in late 2015, vehicle crashes were the leading cause of death for teens and adults ages 16 to 24 in 2014.

“Distracted or impaired driving puts not only your life at risk but also your freedom,” said Brett Railey, Chief of the Winter Park Police Department and President of the Florida Police Chiefs Association. “This is a time to celebrate, but celebrate safely by making smart choices.”

The FPCA encouraged parents to take an active role in educating their children about the dangers of impaired driving and helping them develop a plan for getting home safe. Students should designate a driver, look for alternative transportation or call for help before getting behind the wheel impaired or getting into a car with an impaired driver.

“When you think of prom, you think of dresses and bowties; when you think of graduation, you think of caps and gowns, diplomas and the future,” said Amy Mercer, Executive Director of the Florida Police Chiefs Association. “Nothing destroys that fun and future faster than driving under the influence.”

Distracted driving can also be deadly, especially when mobile devices are used while driving. The FPCA asked all drivers to buckle up, put the phones away and follow the speed limit to reduce possible risk. Younger drivers are also encouraged to reduce the number of passengers in the car.

For more information about the FPCA, please visit www.fpca.com or contact the Association at 850.219.3631.

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The FPCA is the third largest state police chiefs association in the nation and is composed of more than 900 of the state's top law enforcement executives. FPCA serves municipal police departments, airport police, college and university police, private business and security firms, as well as federal, state and county law enforcement agencies. The FPCA has members representing every region of the state.