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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DECATUR TAKES THE LEAD IN DUI ARRESTS

BERWYN HAS REMARKABLE INCREASE IN DUI ARRESTS

Schaumburg, July 1, 2015: DUI arrests and other law enforcement efforts are the most significant deterrents to impaired driving. The Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAIM) is pleased to release the results of our Annual Illinois DUI Arrest Survey for 2014. AAIM has conducted this survey, which is funded by a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation, for 25 years.

Since 1990, AAIM has conducted an annual survey of Illinois police departments to determine how many DUI arrests they make and to give recognition to the most productive departments and police officers. Nearly 700 police agencies were surveyed with 84% responding. AAIM not only praises these departments and individual officers, but we also continue to encourage them to keep up the fight against drunk driving.

The Decatur Police Department is first in the state in DUI arrests among municipal departments with 477 arrests for 2014. (Because of its size, Chicago is in its own category.) Decatur has been a perennial top-five police department in AAIM's DUI ranking since 2008. "We maintain an aggressive and intolerant position on impaired driving. Earning the number one spot in Illinois for 2014 validates our commitment to remove drunk drivers from our roadways. We must continue to partner with organizations such as AAIM, local businesses,

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government officials and schools to solve this problem,” states Decatur Police Chief Brad Sweeney.

In 2014, Springfield was second with 406 arrests, followed by Naperville (387), Rockford (384), Carol Stream (352), Elmhurst (285), Chicago Heights (283), Normal (267), Bloomington (261), and Cicero (255). “Tougher enforcement of drunk driving laws and public awareness campaigns in Illinois has substantially cut the annual number of alcohol-related traffic deaths since fatalities peaked during the 1980’s,” said Rita Kreslin, Executive Director of AAIM. “Focused efforts and cooperation of law enforcement agencies, traffic safety advocates and communities have helped to prevent crashes and save thousands of lives.”

The biggest increase in arrests among the top departments was in Berwyn where DUI arrests jumped by 122% in 2014 compared to 2013. Other municipalities with increases from 2013 to 2014 are Chicago Heights (14.6%), Bloomington (6.1%), Cicero (5.4%) and Arlington Heights (4.2%)

The highest DUI arrest rate in the state among departments making at least 200 arrests was Carol Stream which had 5.50 arrests per sworn officer. The second highest rate of 4.65 was in Fairview Heights. Arrests per officer are an indicator of a department’s emphasis on DUI enforcement and are a measure that can be used to compare smaller departments.

Arrests made by the Chicago Police decreased by 2.2% in 2014 (3,321) compared to 2013 (3,395), Illinois State Police arrests decreased by 37.8% in 2014 (5,784) compared to 2013 (9,302). The sheriff’s department reporting the most DUI arrests was Winnebago County (407), while Cook (349), Lake (346), Will (237) and Champaign (209) Counties round out the top five sheriff departments.

Illinois State Police Trooper Eric David was Illinois’ Top Cop with 236 DUI arrests. AAIM also commends the life-saving efforts of Chicago Police Officer Timothy Walter, who arrested 224 drunk drivers, and Chicago Police Officer Elliot Tupayachi, who arrested 221 drunk drivers.

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“AAIM has great respect for all these officers and departments for their aggressive DUI enforcement. We are grateful for their willingness to put forth the extra effort in removing drunk drivers from our roads,” said Kreslin.

“While the progress is encouraging, the tragic toll of impaired driving is still way too high. We all share a responsibility in making our roadways safe. Citizens need to drive safely at all times and be genuinely concerned about the loss of innocent lives and injuries due to drunk driving” said Kreslin.

AAIM is an Illinois-only citizen activist group founded in 1982 by victims of drunk driving. Prevention, victim advocacy, and legislation encompass the mission of AAIM, a recognized Illinois expert on these issues. The survey provides a valuable service to Illinois citizens by encouraging them to compare the DUI enforcement record of their local police department with that of other communities. As a result, public pressure can be applied, where needed, to encourage DUI enforcement as a priority.

A detailed listing of survey results and participating departments is available at:

www.aaim1.org

Questions? – email: anita@aaim1.org

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