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NEWS RELEASE

Sheriff Cathey Releases First Year Stats of Traffic Enforcement Unit

November 22, 2016, Monroe, NC – Union County Sheriff Eddie Cathey is pleased to release first year stats related to the enforcement and education efforts of the Sheriff's traffic enforcement unit, commonly referred to as the SAFE (Sheriff's Alcohol Field Enforcement) Unit.

This unit consists of one sergeant and four deputy sheriffs whose positions, including salary, benefits, training and equipment, were funded the first year at 100 percent by the Governor's Highway Safety Program. Only fuel and routine vehicle maintenance were not covered by the grant.

In June, the Governor's Highway Safety Program and Sheriff Cathey unveiled the five vehicles assigned to the team members.

Sheriff Cathey commented, "I am very pleased with the hard work and dedication these deputies demonstrated during the first year of the grant. Their commitment to identifying dangerous and impaired drivers improves safety for everyone who travels the roads of Union County. The numbers reflect not only a lot of excellent work but it shows we still have work to do."

Between Oct. 1, 2015 and Sept. 30, 2016, the first year of the grant, 269 impaired driving charges were filed by the unit. Of those arrested, 23 were due to drug impairment and more than 50 of those charged have at least one prior conviction for driving while impaired.

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