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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Union County Sheriff Eddie Cathey and NC Governor's Highway Safety Program Director Don Nail on Tuesday unveiled the Sheriff's new DWI Task Force traffic enforcement vehicles.

The Sheriff's Office was awarded a federal traffic safety grant for 2016 in the amount of \$699,966 for the purchase of five patrol vehicles and equipment to form a new DWI Task Force whose main purpose is to reduce impaired traffic crashes and fatalities, particularly by targeting times that fatalities are most likely to occur on roadways. Since the task force was established in October 2015, the unit has made 180 DWI arrests.

The Governor's Highway Safety Program is dedicated to promoting highway safety awareness to reduce the number of traffic crashes and fatalities in the state of North Carolina through the planning and execution of safety programs.

The grant awarded to the Sheriff's Office complements Governor Pat McCrory's Vision Zero project that aims to save lives on North Carolina roadways. The governor's goal is to reach zero traffic-related fatalities through coordinated agency-to-agency efforts that helps reduce risky driving behaviors by changing the overall traffic safety culture.

The grant funds one supervisory position, which is a sergeant, and four deputy sheriff positions. In the first year, the positions, including salary, benefits, training and equipment, are funded at 100 percent by the Governor's Highway Safety Program. Only fuel and routine vehicle maintenance are not covered by the grant.





Point of contact for this press release is Public Information Officer Tony Underwood, 704-292-2707.

Citizens with information concerning criminal activity are encouraged to call:

Union County Sheriff's Office at 704-283-3789

Or

Union County Crimestoppers at 704-283-5600

