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NEWS RELEASE

Sheriff's Office Receives Grant from Governor's Highway Safety Program

August 18, 2015, Monroe, NC – The Union County Sheriff's Office has been awarded a Traffic Safety Grant in the amount of \$699,966 by the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program.

The grant will fund one supervisory position, which will be a sergeant, and four deputy sheriff positions. In the first year, the positions, including salary, benefits, training and equipment, will be funded at 100 percent by the Governor's Highway Safety Program. Only fuel and routine vehicle maintenance will not be covered by the grant. In Fiscal Years 2017-2020, the County will be responsible for salary and benefit funding.

Currently, there are no deputy sheriffs assigned to traffic enforcement in the unincorporated areas of Union County, even though this is a large geographical area with several main connector roads. The officers funded through the grant will focus on increased DWI enforcement by working evenings and weekends when high risk drivers are on the roadways.

Union County is ranked 16th in the state in the number of alcohol related fatalities. The goals of this grant program are to reduce the number of alcohol related fatalities from a five-year average of 6.4 per year to less than 6 per year, and reduce the number of alcohol related crashes by 10 percent, from a five-year average of 203 to 182.

There are a number of objectives that have been identified in relation to the successful completion of these goals. Increasing DWI enforcement by working peak hours and participation in Governor's Highway Safety Campaigns, such as Booze and Lose It, are just two of those objectives. Ultimately, the Sheriff's Office strives to make the roads of Union County safer for all who travel them.

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