



# WATERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

## *DETECTIVE DIVISION*



### Press Release

Today the Watertown Police Department announced that they will receive \$9680 as one of 17 grants to local police departments from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) to combat underage drinking. \$114,000 in grants, funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and awarded on a competitive basis, varied between \$5,000 and \$15,000 based on the size of the community. This is the second round of grants that was made possible thanks in part to the careful fiscal management of federal funds by EOPSS.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 33% of 15 to 20 year olds who were killed in crashes nationwide in 2009 had a blood alcohol content of .01 or higher. Additionally, young drivers tend to engage in other risky driving behaviors while drinking, such as speeding, distracted driving, running red lights, making illegal turns, and not wearing seat belts. In 2009, 70% of the young drivers of passenger vehicles involved in fatal crashes who had been drinking were also unrestrained.

"There are many tools to combat underage drinking, and this grant provides much needed funds to target the problem," said Chief Edward Deveau. "Whether you are underage, plan to sell to a minor, or buy alcohol for a minor, we will be on the look out."

The grants will fund a variety of law enforcement activities including: stings/compliance checks in bars, restaurants and retail locations; reverse stings; "shoulder tap" and "Cops in Shops" programs; and party patrols. Through a combination of these techniques, departments will be able to analyze and crack down on both minors who seek to circumvent the law and those people and businesses that allow them to.

"Teens and parents need to be reminded that underage drinking is deadly serious," said Chief Deveau. "Parents need to know that hosting a party where alcohol is being served to minors is not only illegal, but is extremely dangerous for their teens, for others in the community, and for the parents themselves, given the legal liabilities they face."

Any loss or injury on our roadways is one too many. The Watertown Police Department, in partnership with EOPSS, recognizes that traffic crashes are preventable, and is committed to using this grant to reduce the number of motor vehicle-related fatalities and injuries in Watertown.