

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
Jim Shuler, GOHS Public Affairs  
404-656-6996 or 888-420-0767  
[jshuler@gohs.ga.gov](mailto:jshuler@gohs.ga.gov)

## **19<sup>TH</sup> “HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER” DUI ENFORCEMENT** **Police From Six States Teaming Up For Impaired Driving Crackdown in Georgia**

(GEORGIA) This Labor Day weekend, drunk drivers will have nowhere to run from police in Georgia because traffic enforcement officers from every neighboring state will be waiting at state lines to take them into custody. It's time for Georgia's annual *Hands Across the Border* intra-state impaired driving and highway safety crackdown. This annual law enforcement tradition leading up to the Labor Day holiday now marks nearly 20 years of making the entire southeast safer from drunk drivers.

“For almost two decades, this DUI enforcement campaign has served as a yearly reminder that law enforcement here in Georgia and in our neighboring states continues to crackdown on impaired driving,” said Governor's Office of Highway Safety Director Bob Dallas. “As motorists all over the southeast hit the road for the last big holiday weekend of the summer, they better not hit the bottle before they get behind the wheel. Because if they choose to visit Georgia, their vacation plans will also include a visit to jail if they choose to drive drunk.”

For five days leading up to Labor Day weekend, police, sheriff's deputies and state troopers throughout Georgia will rendezvous at state Welcome Centers for news media interviews and photo-ops with handshakes and helicopters to promote highway safety education. But it's not just about local TV, radio and newspaper coverage -- Georgia's peace officers will again join their traffic enforcement partners from five bordering states in this major mobilization effort coordinated by the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) to crack down on impaired drivers.

“If Georgia motorists are heading out of state to celebrate the holiday weekend, they should expect to see more law enforcement than usual, especially on the roads and interstates near the state lines,” Director Dallas said. “From **August 29<sup>th</sup> through September 2<sup>nd</sup>**, drivers will see flashing red and blue lights close out the summer season as *Hands Across the Border* once again covers each corner of the state as a reminder to all motorists entering and leaving Georgia that they will not get away with driving drunk -- this Labor Day or any other day of the year.”

Each year this campaign creates an outstanding opportunity for peace officers from Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, and North and South Carolina to renew their commitment to cooperate in their lifesaving mission. For nineteen years, the highlight of the media events at Georgia Welcome Centers has been the traditional handshake between traffic enforcement officers from both sides of the state lines as they make their annual *Hands Across The Border* pledge to work together 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to reduce crashes, fatalities and serious injuries on our highways. After the speeches and media coverage, officers convoy in blue-light motorcades to the adjoining states' visitor centers to repeat their lifesaving pledge.

Once again, this year's *Hands Across The Border* campaign runs concurrent with the nationwide Labor Day impaired driving mobilization. In Georgia, it's **Operation Zero Tolerance**, which means if you're **Over the Limit**, you'll be **Under Arrest**. GOHS is also coordinating the “**100 Days Of Summer HEAT**” initiative this Labor Day to raise awareness about the deadly consequences of speed, aggressive driving, and failure to use safety belts and child restraints. For more information about **Operation Zero Tolerance**, *Hands Across The Border*, and the “**100 Days Of Summer HEAT**”, visit the GOHS website at [www.gahighwaysafety.org](http://www.gahighwaysafety.org) .

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**Governor's Office of Highway Safety Public Information Unit**  
Jim Shuler, Director Public Affairs – 404-656-6996 – [jshuler@gohs.ga.gov](mailto:jshuler@gohs.ga.gov)  
34 Peachtree Street—Suite 800—One Park Tower—Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
Visit us on the web at [www.georgiahighwaysafety.org](http://www.georgiahighwaysafety.org)

Sonny Perdue, Governor

Robert F. Dallas, Director