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PRESS RELEASE

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D.A. DONOVAN & PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ ANNOUNCE **“OPERATION SAFE CROSSING” TARGETING DWI AT S.I. BRIDGES**

****Operation Will Place DWI Checks at Crossings as Drivers Enter S.I.****

STATEN ISLAND, NY - Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr. and Michael A. Fedorko, Superintendent of Port Authority Police Department, of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, today announced the launch of “Operation Safe Crossing” which will target drunken drivers at facilities operated by the Port Authority connecting Staten Island and New Jersey. As part of the operation, the Port Authority Police Department Bridge Unit will operate a "Driving While Intoxicated Road Check" at a pre-selected, undisclosed bridge which will target drunken drivers attempting to enter Staten Island in coming weeks.

District Attorney Donovan stated, “Last year, nearly 33 million cars entered onto Staten Island’s roadways by way of the Port Authority’s crossings. Realistically, a significant number of those drivers were either drunk or under the influence of drugs and endangering every other driver on the road. I am grateful to the Port Authority Police Department for operating these checks and I can assure the public that anyone arrested for this crime on Staten Island will continue to be prosecuted with the most aggressive DWI prosecution policy in this region. While this is a holiday weekend for many, I would remind everyone that an emergency room or a court room is the last place you want to begin a three-day weekend.”

Superintendent Fedorko stated, “People who operate a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs or alcohol put the lives of everyone on the road at risk. Tremendous tragedies are born out of this crime and the Port Authority Police Department’s goal – along with the Staten Island DA – is to target those driving under the influence and remove them from the road before any damage is done.

According to NYPD statistics, as of yesterday 401 individuals have been arrested in 2009 for driving while intoxicated or driving while impaired on Staten Island, compared to 423 as of this date in 2008. For the full year of 2008, a total of 555 individuals were arrested for the same crimes.

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