Contact: Joey Buttitta
Title: Communications Manager/PIO
Phone: (805) 767-3400
Email: joey.buttitta@ventura.org

Approved: RHD
Date: December 30, 2022
Release No.: 22-155

Citing Increase in Felony DUI Cases, DA Nasarenko Warns Public of Dangers of Driving While Impaired by Drugs or Alcohol

VENTURA, Calif. – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko is warning the public against driving while impaired by drugs or alcohol as the holiday weekend approaches. In 2022, over 2,600 DUI related cases were submitted to the Ventura County District Attorney's office by law enforcement. While the overall DUI numbers have edged down slightly compared to last year, felony alcohol DUI with injury cases spiked ten percent in 2022.

Similarly, drinking and driving remains one of the top causes of traffic fatalities in the United States. It is estimated that more than 20,000 people were killed on America's roads in the first half of 2022, according to Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). These deadly statistics put 2022 on pace for a 16-year high.

According to District Attorney Erik Nasarenko, "Far too many people continue to get behind the wheel after drinking or using drugs, resulting in injuries or death to members of our community that are completely avoidable. The consequences of doing so will result in criminal prosecution and incarceration."

In November, the Ventura County District Attorney's Office was awarded $427,000 from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to fund a specialized team that prosecutes alcohol and drug-impaired driving cases. This grant seeks to reduce both alcohol and drug-impaired driving by holding those who decide to drive while impaired accountable for the risks and harm they cause.

"Our DUI prosecutors are incredibly busy handling tragic cases," said District Attorney Nasarenko. "DUI arrests, crashes, injuries, and fatalities are unfortunately still occurring at an unacceptable rate."