



**ST. PATRICK'S DAY PLANNER
ENFORCEMENT VERSION
SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR
296 Words**

Dear Editor:

In 2005, 59 percent of all traffic fatalities that occurred during the evening of St. Patrick's Day to the early hours of the following morning involved drivers with blood alcohol concentrations (BAC) of .01 and higher. Of those, 89 percent involved a driver with a BAC of .08 or higher. This year, the risk may be even greater since St. Patrick's Day festivities will take place on a Saturday night.

That is why **[Local Law Enforcement Organization]** announced today that they will be out in full force on St. Patrick's Day cracking down on and arresting drunk drivers.

St. Patrick's Day has become a big night out for many Americans—especially young adults. Because the holiday falls on a Saturday this year, there will be increased sobriety checkpoints, saturation patrols and undercover officers to get more drunk drivers off the road.

Driving with a BAC of .08 or higher is illegal in every state, but too many are still not getting the message. According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Report, more than 1.3 million people were arrested for driving under the influence during 2005.

Drunk driving is simply not worth the risk. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving impaired can be significant. Violators often face jail time, the loss of their driver's license, higher insurance rates, big attorney fees, unpaid time away from work, and dozens of other expenses.

No matter what you drive—a passenger car, pickup, sport utility vehicle or motorcycle—if you are caught driving impaired, you will be arrested. So don't push your luck this St. Patrick's Day. Remember, *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.*

For more information, please visit www.StopImpairedDriving.org.

***Name, address and phone number.
(The newspaper must have these to
verify the identity of the sender, but
won't print the street address or
phone number.)***

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