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News Release

Stopping Liquor Related Deaths

(Mesa County, CO)- Four DUI related deaths in our community over the last several weeks involving young, intoxicated drivers have hit our community hard. While liquor enforcement has been and continues to be a priority for the Grand Junction Police Department, Mesa County Sheriff's Office, and State Liquor Enforcement, we feel that now is the time to reach out to the community and ask for help in curbing these types of senseless deaths.

"The carnage from drinking and driving continues to mount," said Grand Junction Police Chief Bill Gardner. "ALL of this tragedy is directly related to young drivers who are drunk at the wheel."

Mesa County Sheriff Stan Hilkey added, "People of all ages, I hope, hear our message today--don't drink and drive!"

All three agencies continue to fight this battle. Just last night the GJPD conducted a liquor enforcement operation with assistance from the MCSO and State Liquor Enforcement. Together the agencies issued more than 2-dozen summonses for liquor violations including 3 to adults who provided liquor to people who are underage, and 21 to underage drinkers for consuming alcohol. These violations occurred at various locations across the city.

"Our community is reeling from multiple tragedies right now as a result of alcohol. The tragedy of drinking and driving, and underage drinking, continues to rear its ugly head. We will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to make a difference," said Sheriff Hilkey.

This as Chief Gardner made a direct call for action to the young people of this community.

"This death toll must stop. All local and state law enforcement remain committed to maximum DUI enforcement. Yet I am appealing to young adults. STOP this irresponsibility that is causing this wanton waste of human lives. Think of others, not just yourself," Chief Gardner said.