

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



THOMAS J. SPOTA
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

PRESS ADVISORY FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 2012

**Newly formed East End DWI Task Force to be announced
Wednesday**

Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota will be joined this Wednesday (May 23) by Sheriff Vincent DeMarco, SCDA East End Bureau Chief Steve Kuehhas, and the chiefs of ten east end police departments as well as officials from the Suffolk County Police, Suffolk Park Police and the New York State Police to announce the formation and **deployment this Memorial Day weekend of the Suffolk County East End DWI Task Force** on eastern Suffolk roads and highways.

"This multi-jurisdictional enforcement action in eastern Suffolk County will target those driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs or the combination of the two on the east end this weekend and other weekends this summer," DA Spota said. The new initiative under the auspices of the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office begins Friday evening, May 25.

District Attorney Spota said the philosophy behind the formation of the task force, is to employ a team approach, without regard to jurisdictional boundaries, to protect local residents and visitors to eastern Long Island.

"Local police departments in the five towns and villages don't have the resources to focus solely on drunk and drugged drivers on holiday weekends," District Attorney Spota said. "This team strategy will augment local law enforcement and make the expansion of the enforcement action on the east end more mobile and responsive."

"The message is: Have a good time, enjoy eastern Suffolk County and all it has to offer and be aware that for the first time on the east end, we are combining our forces to remove drunk and drugged drivers from east end roads," D.A. Spota said.

WHERE & WHEN: The announcement of the creation of the East End DWI Task Force and the implementation of Operation NiteCAP (Nighttime Concentrated Alcohol Enforcement) will be in the **Peconic River Parking Lot in Riverhead** (behind the downtown Riverhead stores on the

riverfront, accessible from Main Street and Peconic Avenue) at **12:30 pm** on **Wednesday, May 23, 2012**.

District Attorney Spota will be joined by Suffolk County Sheriff Vincent DeMarco, Bureau Chief Steve Kuehhas, the chiefs of ten east end police departments, and officials from the Suffolk County Police Department, New York State Police and other law enforcement agencies and MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving). The Suffolk County Sheriff's Office Breath Alcohol Testing (BAT) Mobile and police squad cars from each participating law enforcement agency will be present.

For the years 2009 to 2011, the total number of DWI arrests processed in east end town and justice courts averaged 1,100 to 1,200 cases per year.

The STOP DWI Operation has the participation from the following law enforcement agencies:

East Hampton Town

East Hampton Village

New York State Troopers

Riverhead Town

Sag Harbor Village

Shelter Island Town

Westhampton Beach Village

Southampton Village

Southold Town

Suffolk County Parks Police

Suffolk County Sheriff's Office

Suffolk County Police Department

Quogue Village

Southampton Town