

**This Sobriety Checkpoint
is dedicated to**



Nick Sznerch & Family

Nick Sznerch was seven years old and in the first grade when he, his sister, mother and father were traveling in a van struck by an impaired driver. The family was driving from North Carolina to Orlando, and just five minutes from their exit – when they were run off of the road. Their van flipped several times. Nick's dad was killed instantly. His 13 year old sister was transported but died at the hospital. Nick and his mother survived life-threatening injuries after a month in the hospital.

The impaired driver fled the scene, but was later caught and tried – receiving 16 years in prison. Nick's dad was a decorated firefighter – his sister an "A" student and talented artist. Nick is now a Police Explorer with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, has a black belt in karate, and has dreams of college and a career in law enforcement.

Nick wishes he could share those dreams with his dad and his sister, but he and his mother are grateful to all who helped them recover and cope with the lasting damage done by one impaired driver.

Make the Right Choice... Don't Drink & Drive

There are many local, state and national organizations and programs that can offer you more information on the dangers and consequences of impaired driving. Visit these websites:

National Traffic and Highway Safety Administration
www.nhtsa.gov

Remove Intoxicated Drivers-Tampa Bay
www.ridtampabay.com

Mothers Against Drunk Driving
www.madd.org

"Click It or Ticket"
America's Seat Belt Campaign
www.nhtsa.gov/ciot

Students Against Destructive Decisions
www.sadd.org

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
10750 Ulmerton Road
Largo, FL 33778
727-582-6200
www.pcsoweb.com

"Leading The Way For A Safer Pinellas"



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Pinellas County Sheriff's Office



Sobriety Checkpoint Program

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri

"Leading The Way For A Safer Pinellas"

Impaired drivers kill innocent people every day. The purpose of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Sobriety Checkpoint Program is to arrest impaired drivers and take them off the road. These checkpoints are also designed to send the message that impaired driving will not be tolerated in Pinellas County.



There is too much to lose if you drive while impaired. Not only do you pose a risk to another innocent driver – but also to passengers in their vehicle and in yours as well. If you are arrested for driving under the influence, you will lose your driver's license, and you will go to jail. The consequences are serious and can affect your future, your family and your livelihood.

Impairment begins with the first drink or the first pill. Don't put your life and the lives of others in danger because you decide to drive impaired.

Be smart.

Be responsible.

Don't drive while impaired. There are lives at stake – including yours.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Gualtieri".

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri
Pinellas County

- Thirty-five percent of fatalities among 15 to 20-year-olds are a result of motor vehicle crashes. Of these, at least 21 percent are alcohol-related.
- Drivers under 21 years of age (the legal drinking age) are subject to zero tolerance laws. These laws make it illegal for those under the age of 21 to drive after having consumed any amount of alcohol, and subject underage impaired drivers to strict penalties.
- Violation of zero tolerance laws may result in license revocation, significant fines and extended community service.
- There is public support for enforcing zero tolerance and drinking age laws. By enforcing these laws, communities can significantly decrease crime, fatalities and deaths among young drivers.
- It is estimated that minimum drinking-age laws have saved more than 18,000 lives since their inception in 1975. Zero tolerance laws are designed to achieve the same goal – saving lives.



One person died in this 2002 DUI crash.

- Impaired driving is one of the most frequently committed crimes, killing someone in America every 30 minutes and non-fatally injuring someone every two minutes. That means you, your family and your friends are equally likely to be innocent victims of an impaired driver.
- During 2010, 1,198 alcohol related crashes were reported in Pinellas County. These crashes resulted in 699 injuries and 42 deaths.
- Over 58,000 people were arrested for impaired driving in Florida last year.

SEAT BELTS SAVE LIVES

- In 2010, almost 500,000 people were involved in traffic crashes in Florida. Of those who were involved in fatal crashes, 54% were not wearing seat belts.
- Drivers and passengers in a motor vehicle can be ticketed for not wearing a seat belt. All front seat occupants must buckle up, regardless of age. Passengers under the age of 18 must be belted in either the front or back seat of the vehicle.
- The penalty for a violation is \$116 plus other legal assessments. So 'Click It or Ticket'.
- Florida's Child Restraint Law requires all children 5 years of age or younger be properly restrained no matter where they are sitting in the vehicle. Children through age 3 must be secured in a separate carrier or a vehicle manufacturer's integrated child safety seat.