



UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## MEDIA RELEASE

SHERIFF MALCUM J. "JAMIE" PATTON



For Immediate Release: August 10, 2015

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### *Sheriff to Educate Public with New Driving Simulator*

The Union County Sheriff's Office is pleased to announce the purchase of a new, interactive driving simulator. The Purchase was made with donations received from the Impact 60 Organization and the Fraternal Order of Eagles. "We are very fortunate to have such generous people and organizations in this county, and without their generosity, opportunities like this may never happen," says Sheriff Jamie Patton.

This Simulator will help educate young drivers as well as the older drivers on the importance of not texting or becoming distracted while they are behind the wheel of a car. "So many lives are being destroyed by drivers electing to pick up the phone while they are driving," says Patton.

Texting and other forms of distraction account for nearly twenty-five percent of the traffic crashes today. Texting while Driving is the number one distraction reported by Teen drivers today. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that texting while driving is equivalent to driving after the consumption of four beers.

The driving simulator will be taken to High Schools as well as other events throughout the county to give drivers of all ages an opportunity to see the dangers and consequences of texting and driving. The Software for the simulator allows the drivers to interact with the machine using a special keypad next to the steering wheel or they may actually use their own cell phone which will interact with the simulator's software.

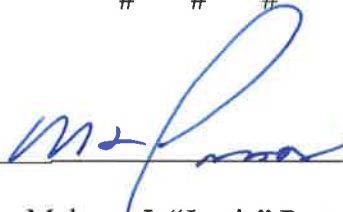
In addition to the Texting and Driving software the simulator has an Impaired Driving component that gives the driver the effects of driving while impaired. The nice part about this component is that the simulator will walk the driver through the court process if pulled over for impaired driving or involved in an accident while impaired.

"Texting and Driving as well as Impaired Driving accidents are fast becoming one of the top killers of our young adults in our society today". This is a great opportunity for the Sheriff's Office to educate drivers of all ages on the dangers and consequences of distracted and impaired driving.

The Driving Simulator will be used to kick-off the National "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign at the next Marysville City Council Meeting on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

# # #

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_



8/13/15

Malcun J. "Jamie" Patton  
Sheriff – Union County