



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

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Mother cited for furnishing alcohol at New Year's Eve party that led to fatal crash

(Columbus) – Agents with the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Ohio Investigative Unit charged a city of Fairfield parent with furnishing beer to an underage person during a New Year's Eve party.

Doreen A. Schafer, 52, was charged after agents determined she provided beer for her daughter and several underage friends. The trace-back investigation was referred to OIU by the Hamilton Police Department after one of the individuals at the party, Aaron Jones, 20, of Hamilton, crashed his vehicle into a large stone sign. He was flown by AirCare to a Cincinnati-area hospital where he later died as a result of the crash.

"This is a real tragedy that could have been prevented," said Agent-in-Charge Harold Torrens. "Parents need to realize there are consequences to providing alcohol to underage individuals."

Schafer will appear in Fairfield Municipal Court on February 12.

Trace-back investigations involve tracing the source of alcohol, whether it is sold or provided to an underage or an already intoxicated individual, following a serious injury or fatal crash, or an alcohol-related incident.

The presence of alcohol in fatal crashes continues to be a significant problem in Ohio. Retailers and those over 21 are reminded to never provide or sell alcohol to an underage person. Doing so could result in criminal charges or result in administrative charges against the liquor permit.

Motorists are reminded to call #677 to report impaired drivers or drug activity.

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The Ohio Investigative Unit agents are plain-clothed fully sworn peace officers. OIU is charged with enforcing the state's liquor laws and is the only state law enforcement agency specifically tasked with investigating food stamp fraud crimes. Agents also investigate tobacco violations.

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