

Pre-Prom Underage Drinking Prevention Education

SAFE, Inc. and the Glen Cove PD Partner to Keep Teens Safe

A little knowledge can go a long way. With this in mind, and the prom just months away, SAFE Coalition's School Committee invited Glen Cove Police Sgt. Chris Ortiz to speak to students on March 1 about the dangers of underage drinking and driving. Denise Kiernan, the Chair of the School Committee is also the director of Health and Physical Education for the Glen Cove School District. She invited Sgt. Ortiz to further the goals of SAFE, a commitment to providing preventative education to the youth in Glen Cove.

Sgt. Ortiz has had a longtime commitment to the youth of Glen

Cove as well. He's been a member of Safe's Coalition and the Community Committee for many years. Students listened with much interest to his powerful and informative PowerPoint presentation that highlighted national statistics on underage drinking as well as results from the 2010 Bach-Harrison Prevention Needs Assessment Survey ("the Survey"). In the Survey 20 percent of high school seniors reported either driving a car after drinking or riding in a car with a driver who had been drinking – pretty scary stuff.

The results of the Survey motivated SAFE's PRIDE Coalition to add a com-

ponent to the SAFE Rides Program that they adopted back in the 1980's. The Coalition's Parent Committee decided to team up with Student Lifeline, a local organization working to reduce the risks of underage drinking and driving. The free program offers Student Lifeline cards enabling students to avoid potential danger by calling for a ride home rather than taking the chance of driving with a peer who has been drinking. After Sgt. Ortiz's presentation, Paula Castiglia, SAFE's PRIDE Coalition Coordinator, discussed the program with students and gave out over 75 Student Lifeline cards.

SAFE, Inc. was established in 1981 to combine the strengths of the public

and private sectors in the Glen Cove community to provide alcohol and drug prevention services. This organization is the only substance abuse prevention agency in Glen Cove, emphasizing substance abuse.

For more information regarding SAFE, Inc and the PRIDE Coalition, or to view SAFE Inc.'s Public Service Announcement, visit www.safeglencove.org. Want to follow the PRIDE Coalition on Facebook? Find us at www.facebook.com/GlenCovePrideCoalition or <http://www.facebook.com/GlenCovePrideCoalition>.