



**For Immediate Release
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SAFE, Inc. partners with DA's office to send home a pre-prom message

A recent visit from the Maureen McCormick, chief of vehicular crimes at the Nassau County District Attorney's office, during an assembly for the seniors at Glen Cove High School, drove home the message that with every choice there is a consequence. The *Choices and Consequences* program, which addresses the dangers of reckless driving and driving under the influence, is brought to the high school by SAFE, Inc.'s School Committee who partner annually with the Nassau County District Attorney's office to bring the program to the school right before the prom.

The program addressed, in a sobering fashion, the dangers of reckless driving and driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs using a power point presentation as well as testimonies from those who broke the law and are now, as part of their sentence, speaking to others to discourage them from following their path.

"Especially with prom season coming up and the horrific accidents that happen, we try to expose students to the reality of drinking and driving," said Glen Cove High School Assistant Principal Allen Hudson. "We want them to know exactly what will happen."

McCormick speaks to students often. And students appear to listen.

"It's not just about being drunk and high," she said, showing slides of fatal car accidents. "If you are driving like a moron it's just as criminal. I'm here to scare you."

Choices and Consequences is an anti-drug and anti-reckless driving effort to, as McCormick said, "get these guys to settle down and think about the consequence."

But McCormick didn't only speak about past accidents; she also spoke about her own rules for her children. One topic was the danger of text messaging while driving. "I worry my children will lose their lives for some stupid text," she said.

She encouraged kids to lose the attitude that these things happen to other people. And she mentioned the popular phrase, YOLO, "you only live once," saying that the mentality was destructive.

At the assembly students also found out what will happen if you are pulled over by police demonstrated when a few student volunteers pretended to be driving too fast in a car causing a crash.

The people that came to the assembly to speak as part of their sentencing included a young woman who was a college student when she ran over a bicyclist killing him and then left the scene of the accident. "Because I left the scene of an accident my life is changed forever," she said, adding that she had not been drinking or doing drugs.

McCormick encouraged the seniors to take some precautions before going out. She suggested they keep extra money in an emergency pocket so a student can get home

by calling a cab; also to make a deal with their family for a ride with no questions asked if it is needed. “Your family would rather pick you up than have to bail you out of jail or identify you at the morgue,” she said.

At the end of the assembly representatives from SAFE, Inc. handed out free ride cards to all students.

For further information on any SAFE, Inc. PRIDE Project Coalition and their initiatives contact Coalition Coordinator Aimee Abraham at (516) 676-2008. SAFE Inc. is a not for profit tax exempt substance abuse education and prevention agency located in Glen Cove. Visit our website at www.safeglencove.org and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GlenCovePrideCoalition