



At the recent Choices and Consequences assembly at Glen Cove High School were, from left, Chief of Vehicular Crimes Maureen McCormick, Glen Cove High School students, Nassau County Officer John Obert Thorne, Legal Secretary Elizabeth Augner, Glen Cove School District Director of Health Denise Kiernan. (Photos by SAFE, Inc.)

Seniors Receive Pre-Prom Warning

SUBMITTED BY SAFE, INC

With every choice we make in life there is a consequence - that's the message Maureen McCormick, Chief of Vehicular Crimes at the Nassau County District Attorney's office shared with Glen Cove seniors during a recent assembly at Glen Cove High School. Some consequences are tragic: a head-on collision in Farmingdale last weekend killed all five teenagers involved. 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. SAFE Coalition's School Committee is dedicated to utilizing needs assessment data to identify and provide prevention activities and programs for youth.

Before the program even began students passed a crashed car in the school's parking lot, a visual aid brought by the DA's office to show just how horrible a car accident can be if someone drives recklessly and/or decides to drink and then drive.

The program's PowerPoint presentation addressed, in a sobering fashion, the dangers of reckless driving and driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs. It also included 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.

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."

Students also found out what will happen if you are pulled over by police, which was demonstrated by a few student volunteers who pretended to be driving too fast in a car

causing a crash.

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.

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.