

## **Press Release**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **The SAFE Glen Cove Coalition hosts Choices & Consequences at Glen Cove High School *District Attorney Madeline Singas Brings a Reality Check to Teen Drivers.***

District Attorney Madeline Singas knows the reality that reckless driving can have on the lives of our young people. That is why she is bringing the message of safe driving to Nassau County's High Schools. On, May 17, 2016 the Nassau County District Attorney's Office, in conjunction with the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition School Committee, and Glen Cove School District, visited the Glen Cove High School Senior class to deliver this message through the Choices & Consequences Program.

In 2014, SAFE Inc. in conjunction with Glen Cove School District administered the Bach-Harrison Prevention Needs Assessment to 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Used to determine risk and protective factors among youth and teens, this survey revealed that drinking and driving rates are as high as 11.4% in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade – a truth that could be fatal if not addressed.

The Choices and Consequences program is designed to do just that. A 90 minute, interactive high school presentation designed to combat drunk, drugged and reckless driving, it is based on a "reality TV" model that relies on real cases, real evidence and real people from cases. The program aims to break through natural teenage invincibility to teach life-saving lessons. Traffic crashes are the number one cause of death for young people between the ages of 15 and 24. The District Attorney's goal is to reduce injuries and deaths in this most vulnerable age group.

The first segment of the program educates the students about criminal law, the social host law, safe driving techniques, toxicology and licensing issues. Presented by ADA Patrick Brand, this segment used real cases and real evidence to bring a true to life experience to students about the sobering reality that wreckless driving can have on the lives of those involved in these accidents.

Students listened as Mr. Brand described in detail several cases in which reckless and drunk driving causes devastating consequences for both offenders and victims.

The second segment consisted of a skit where student volunteers re-enacted a driving situation in which passengers encourage the driver to drink and engage in other reckless driving. Nassau County Police Officer John Obert Thorn responded to the scene of the “crash” and explained the police procedures and the tests conducted. The student “driver” performed coordination tests wearing “Fatal Vision” goggles which simulated intoxication.

During the final segment, students heard from an offender who was convicted on numerous charges related to reckless driving. The offender shared a brief overview of the circumstances of his convictions as well as how it has affected their personal lives and relationships. Students left the presentation knowing the truth about drunk and reckless driving and recognizing the ways it could change their lives forever. At the end of the presentation students were given Student Lifeline cards (“SAFE Ride”), providing free cab rides for teens who need to get home safe when in a high risk situation to reduce the risk of underage drinking and drinking.

For more information about SAFE's initiatives contact SAFE at: 516-676-2008 or visit the website at <http://www.safeglencove.org> or our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition>.