

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: HUDSON COUNTY SHERIFF FRANK X. SCHILLARI

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5 arrested during crackdown on drunk drivers in Jersey City: authorities

The Hudson County Sheriff's Office conducted a Sobriety Checkpoint last night in Jersey City, on Kennedy Blvd and Manhattan Avenue, that started at 10 pm and went until 4 am. The checkpoint was funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the New Jersey DOT as part of the Drunk Driving Enforcement Grant. There were a total of two Driving While intoxicated arrests, 2 drug arrests, 1 underage driver in possession of an open alcohol container, 1 warrant arrest, and 2 underage passengers who were drinking. Additionally, 4 vehicles were impounded, 8 suspended drivers were summonsed as well as 18 other motor vehicle infractions.

Mario A. Martinez, 26, of Hoboken, drove through the checkpoint with a lit pipe filled with marijuana. Officers stopped him and a subsequent check found he had over 50 grams of marijuana, a large sum of money and drug packaging material. He was charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance, possession with the intent to distribute a controlled dangerous substance, possession with intent to sell a controlled dangerous substance within 1,000 feet of a school zone, and drug paraphernalia. His vehicle was also impounded. Martinez was sent to the Hudson County Correctional Facility and will appear before a judge in Central Judicial Processing Court on Monday morning.

Ivan Velez, 20, of Jersey City, was also stopped within the checkpoint and was arrested for possession of a controlled dangerous substance, less than 50 grams, and was released on a summons complaint. He is due in CJP court on Monday morning.

Julian Geralbino, 25, Paterson, was stopped after he made an illegal u-turn to avoid the checkpoint. A check showed he had an outstanding warrant out of North Haledon, NJ, and was arrested and turned over to the North Haledon Police Department.

"The key to deterring impaired driving is highly visible enforcement," said Sheriff Frank Schillari. "Having my officers out there engaging in highly visible enforcement efforts deters people from getting behind the wheel when they drink. If you choose to drink and drive you will get caught.

Drivers under the influence of alcohol were behind the wheel of 25% of the fatal accidents that occurred in New Jersey in 2014, in comparison, Drunk Drivers were involved in 70% of the fatal crashes that occurred in Hudson County in 2014, including a horrific crash on July 3rd 2014, that claimed three lives on Rt-3, near 495, and last November's Hit and Run Crash on Kennedy Blvd, near Schutzen Park, that killed Michael Viruet and left his 11 year old brother, Adrian Viruet, critically injured and impaled on a fence.

Law Enforcements ultimate goal is to protect the public it serves, these checkpoints and saturations patrols are the best way for Law Enforcement to combat this deadly public safety issue. The grant we received allow us to put extra officers on the roads to focus on drunk driving issues.

The Sheriff's Office will have extra DWI patrols, roving Hudson County, throughout the Labor Day Weekend. (Full Story [Click Here](#))