



## **Governor Bill Richardson Announces Increased Efforts To Combat DWI and Substance Abuse**

**Governor unveils July 4<sup>th</sup> DWI crackdown, renews call for Supreme  
Court to amend 6-month rule, requests Judicial Summit to address  
DWI and substance abuse**

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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today stepped-up his attack on DWI and substance abuse in New Mexico.

“As the events over the weekend illustrate, DWI remains a scourge across this state. It cuts across every social group, every ethnic group and every economic group. And we are announcing three specific initiatives we are pursuing to address this problem.”

The Governor directed action be taken in three critical areas:

- **Reducing DWI on New Mexico roads.** The Governor announced “**Project End-Dependence**”, a statewide 14-day Super Blitz by New Mexico State Police and local law enforcement from July 1<sup>st</sup> to July 14<sup>th</sup> in cities across New Mexico, continuing our crackdown on DWI. DWI checkpoints and saturation patrols have resulted in average the arrest of 200 suspected drunken drivers each month since January. The Super Blitz will include sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols, and will target Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Gallup, Farmington, Las Cruces, Roswell and Espanola. History shows that these areas have a high number of fatal DWI accidents. In addition, the Governor announced the state will increase the annual number of Super Blitzes from 4 to 7. “While we have a long way to go,” the Governor added, “I am proud to report that this year, DWI fatalities are down.”

- **Increasing the ability to prosecute offenders.** The Governor today renewed his request that the New Mexico Supreme Court modify “the 6-month rule” to allow the courts to hear DWI and domestic violence cases beyond the rigid six-month time period that has, in effect, prevented many DWI convictions in the past. A few months ago, the Supreme Court recommended the very same rule change. Unfortunately, nothing has happened since then. “I respect the courts and their rulemaking process,” said Governor Richardson. “But if a rule change is not done in the near future, I will have no choice but to request that the Legislature enact statutes that will extend the six-month rule and trump the Supreme Court’s weak and antiquated rule.”
- **Involve the Judiciary in the solution.** Governor Richardson is calling for a summit between the Executive Branch and the Judicial Branch to address DWI and drugs in New Mexico. The Judiciary will provide their perspective from the bench-what works, what’s broken and what additional resources are needed to ensure that DWI and drug offenses will be punished and that this scourge on our communities will be kept under control. “In the coming days, I will be announcing the appointment of my DWI Czar,” said Governor Richardson. “I want my czar to be in place for this summit with the Judiciary so that the executive branch can further understand what is needed for the Judiciary to fully protect our Citizens.”