



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

For immediate release  
Feb. 22, 2007

Contact: Jon Goldstein  
(Santa Fe) 505-476-2248

### **Governor Richardson Announces New DWI Initiatives Including #DWI Hotline, \$200,000 for APD Enforcement**

(Albuquerque, NM) -- Governor Bill Richardson today announced several new initiatives designed to reduce death and injury due to DWI in New Mexico.

“We have gotten tougher on drunk drivers every year since I became Governor,” said Governor Richardson. “We have done a lot, but as the tragedy that struck the Collins, Garcia and Gonzales families of Las Vegas last November and the wrong way crash at I-25 and Gibson this week indicates, we must do more.”

New initiatives announced today include:

1. Starting today, by dialing # DWI (#394) from any cell phone, New Mexicans will instantly be in touch with DrunkBusters dispatchers to report suspected drunken drivers. Thanks to the cooperation of cell phone providers across the state, including Alltel, Cingular, Cricket, Plateau, T-Mobile and Verizon Wireless, New Mexico now has a simpler way to report drunk drivers.
  - Since the program started last year, DrunkBusters dispatchers have received more than 3,200 calls, and 41 drivers being charged with DWI as a result of those calls. This includes a trucker who reported a DWI suspect traveling in the wrong direction on I-25 north of Santa Fe earlier this month. Because of the DrunkBuster hotline and the combined efforts of the public, dispatchers and law enforcement, this incident ended with an arrest and not a crash.

2. To inform the public about the Pound-DWI hotline, the Department of Transportation will install new roadways signs at strategic locations throughout the state. And the NMDOT will also publicize the #DWI number on New Mexico's Park and Ride buses.
3. Governor Richardson also announced today a new \$200,000 contract with the Albuquerque Police Department to increase DrunkBusters enforcement efforts in the Metro area. This contract will help increase enforcement by funding overtime for the APD officers that are assisting the State in tracking down DWI offenders, and will eventually help hire more full time officers.

“The early morning wrong way crash at I-25 and Gibson in Albuquerque yesterday concerns me deeply,” said Governor Richardson. “By helping to give the public and the Albuquerque Police Department the tools to fight DWI our streets and our communities will be safer.”

These efforts build upon several initiatives already announced by Governor Richardson meant to crack down on New Mexicans with out-of-state DWI convictions; prevent drunk drivers from accessing the wrong side of the highway; work with aviation officials to encourage the reporting of drunk passengers to local law enforcement; and increase enforcement of DWI laws.

#30#