



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Charles J. Fuschillo Jr.

## Senator Fuschillo: Be Smart, Be Safe, and Don't Drink and Drive This New Year's Weekend

CHARLES J. FUSCHILLO JR. December 30, 2010

| ISSUE: **DRUNK DRIVING**

Senator Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr. (R-Merrick) is urging residents to be safe this New Year's weekend by not drinking and driving.

"New Year's is a festive occasion, but if you're going to go out and enjoy yourself, remember to make the right choice by designating a driver or making other arrangements to get home if you plan on drinking. Help save lives this holiday weekend; be smart, be safe, and don't drink and drive," said Senator Fuschillo.

Senator Fuschillo reminded residents that New York State has strengthened its DWI laws over the last year to increase penalties on those convicted of drunk driving. As part of Leandra's Law, which Senator Fuschillo sponsored, New York State now requires all convicted drunk drivers, including first time offenders, to install and use an ignition interlock in all their vehicles. Ignition interlocks are breath test devices linked to a vehicle's ignition system which prevent the car from starting if alcohol is detected in the driver's breath. The interlock requirement is in addition to any other penalties imposed by the courts.

"New York State has greatly strengthened its DWI laws over the last several years. Over 8,900 people were arrested for DWI on Long Island last year. Don't find out the hard way that New York is serious about stopping drunk driving. Help everyone get home safe by designating a driver," Senator Fuschillo added.

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