VOLUME 9 23 December 2009 NUMBER 16

PAX 501

With the holiday season upon us, I would like to discuss with all members the importance of taking care of each other and your families. The holidays, combined with everyday stress, can adversely impact your decisions at this time of year. So if you, or someone you know, have consumed alcohol to excess, then please do not drive. Not only is doing so a crime, it can have dire consequences.

By drinking and driving you are jeopardizing not only your life, but the lives of those around you, including family members, friends and innocent persons. You are also risking your career, and consequently, the financial well-being and security of yourself and those who depend on you. Finally, as you are all aware, your actions directly affect the reputation of your fellow officers and that of the Chicago Police Department, the finest law enforcement organization in the world.

The Department has resources available to help if you have an alcohol or substance abuse problem. Turge you to contact EAP's 24-hour peer support counseling office at 312-747-5492 for further information and assistance if you need it or know of someone who does.

There is assistance available if you have a problem with alcohol consumption, but the decision ultimately belongs to you to determine when you've had enough. Please don't place innocent lives, your career and the well-being of your family in danger by drinking and driving.

Look out for one another. If you see someone who has had too much to drink, don't let him or her get behind the wheel. Take care of each other, just as you would on the street responding to a call. You owe it to yourselves, your families, and the citizens of this great city.

With best wishes to each of you for a safe and joyous holiday season and happy New Year.

Jody P. Weis Superintendent of Police