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## **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Law Enforcement Conference Combats Underage Drinking and Prevention Issues Affecting Youth**

CROMWELL, CT—Over 130 Connecticut law enforcement officers from throughout Connecticut came together today to address underage drinking and other law enforcement issues affecting youth at The Governor's Prevention Partnership's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Law Enforcement Conference in Cromwell.

“We are very excited and proud to be hosting this conference for the twelfth year” said Jill Spinetti, President and CEO of The Governor's Prevention Partnership. “In our work with law enforcement, we continue to see that Connecticut is truly ahead of the curve in its prevention and enforcement efforts. And we know the partnership we have with law enforcement is working. In 2008, liquor outlets were 56% less likely to sell to minors if The Partnership, local law enforcement and Liquor Control had conducted compliance checks in those outlets at least once during 2007.”

In addition to participating in 15 workshops and roundtable discussions, officers and police departments received awards recognizing excellence in preventing underage drinking.

- The Newtown Police Department was named Outstanding Police Department;
- Officer Albert Harrison of the Enfield Police Department received the Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer award, and the
- Innovative Police-Community Partnership award was presented to the New Britain Police Department, the CCSU Police Department and the CCSU Town-Gown Taskforce.

A Police Department of the Year award, determined and presented by youth who work alongside police departments throughout Connecticut in underage drinking issues and enforcement, was presented to the Bridgeport Police Department; the award was accepted by Sergeant John Evans.

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services special investigator with the Tobacco Prevention and Enforcement Program, Greg Carver, presented DMHAS awards to

- CT Department of Public Safety for Most Improved Police Partnership and to
- Milford Police Department for Most Valuable Police Partnership.

Carver's department works with law enforcement to improve merchant compliance in tobacco sales to youth.

Conference workshops were led by nationally recognized state police detectives, drug control agents, community education specialists, underage drinking coalitions, SADD students, police explorers, and prevention experts and focused on issues such as preventing third party sales and social access, making "party patrols" work, compliance checks, drug identification at DUI stops, and enforcement issues including prescription drug abuse and enforcement, safe teen driving, tobacco prevention and enforcement, and others.

Cromwell Police Chief and Legislative Co-Chairperson for the CT Police Chiefs' Association, Anthony Salvatore, gave welcome remarks on the importance of vigilance in prevention of youth access and abuse of drugs and alcohol and provided legislative updates on issues related to law enforcement.

Founded in 1989 with a focus on Connecticut's youth, The Governor's Prevention Partnership is a statewide public-private alliance, building a strong healthy future workforce through leadership in mentoring and prevention of violence, underage drinking, alcohol and drug abuse.

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