



EAST LAMPETER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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CHIEF OF POLICE
John M. Bowman

CAPTAIN
Stephen Zerbe

The East Lampeter Township Police Department provides police service to both East Lampeter and Upper Leacock Townships in Lancaster County. The agency consists of 35 sworn officers and provides service to about 24,000 residents in both jurisdictions with 38 square miles of coverage. The area of coverage includes portions of the Route 30 bypass, PA Route 462 and PA Route 23.

A three year history of DUI arrests for the department is as follows: 2011- 95 arrests, 2012-90 arrests and 2013-97 arrests. Accidents involving a DUI driver over that same period are as follows:2011- 21 accidents, 2012-22 accidents and 2013- 36 accidents.

The most disturbing trend involving both the arrests and the accidents is that a considerable number of these are repeat offenders. The opinion of many in the law enforcement community is that the penalty for repeat DUI offenders is not swift and in many cases not "hard-hitting".

Some possible consequences to consider for repeat DUI offenders that would hopefully make an impression could include increasing the statutory grading of DUI to make repeat offenses over a certain amount of time a felony. Convictions for felonies could have far reaching consequences. An example would be if a driver has three convictions over a ten year period, any subsequent arrests become a felony regardless if the person is involved in an accident or not. To have the possibility of a felony conviction may give some repeat DUI drivers pause before making an ominous decision to drive impaired again.

Another option would be the seizing of a vehicle owned by the repeat DUI offender. In tragic accident cases the vehicle is the weapon of the drunk driver. A process to confiscate a vehicle would be a deterrent. To forfeit a vehicle would have a financial impact not only on the driver, but also the vehicle owner if it is another. Many times repeat offenders that can't get insurance will register their car with a willing family member. This would serve to deter not only the DUI driver, but those that seek to enable them to continue to drive. This process can prove to be time consuming and have a cost, but it is certainly worthy of further consideration.

Lastly, another option for consideration would be the due process given to repeat offenders. Being able to take a repeat offender with at least one conviction for immediate arraignment could be another tool. Once the results are received from either a breath or blood test and charges are to be prepared, the repeat offender could be required to be presented for immediate arraignment. Many believe that swiftly removing a repeat drunk driver from the roadways is a necessity. This consideration for all repeat offenders, including state residents, does not take away from their due process, but could have some impact.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Bowman
Chief of Police



A Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accredited Agency



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