

To the Mayor and Members of the City Council**February 24, 2026**

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**SUBJECT: FORT WORTH POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO DWI**

The purpose of this Informal Report is to provide an update regarding the Fort Worth Police Department's efforts to enforce DWI laws.

Policy

Driving while intoxicated (DWI) is a serious offense that puts the general public as well as the involved driver at risk of serious injury or death. The Fort Worth Police Department proactively and aggressively enforces DWI offenses. DWI enforcement saves lives. All sworn members of the Department share responsibility for identifying and removing intoxicated or impaired drivers from the roadway. Officers most often encounter impaired drivers during traffic stops or crash investigations. Probable cause for a DWI arrest shall be based on a comprehensive investigation that includes the officer's observations, interviews, field sobriety testing, training and experience. The totality of the circumstances shall be used to determine whether the elements of an offense under Chapter 49 of the Texas Penal Code are present.

Training

Fort Worth Police Officers are trained in accordance with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) DWI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing guidelines. They receive both classroom and practical training at the police academy and gain additional experience with these types of arrests during their field training. The primary purpose of their training is to teach them how to recognize indicators that a person is driving with a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) of 0.08 or higher. These include problems maintaining proper lane position, improper speed and braking, poor vigilance while driving, and poor judgment while operating a vehicle. Examples include weaving and drifting, driving well below the speed limit, failing to pay attention to surroundings and vehicle movement, and poor judgment when operating a motor vehicle. These examples are not sufficient to establish probable cause for arrest; however, they do create reasonable suspicion for a traffic stop. Once the vehicle has been stopped and a thorough investigation has been conducted, officers will make an arrest when the totality of the circumstances lead them to believe probable cause exists.

Duties and Structure of DWI Unit

The primary responsibility of officers assigned to the DWI enforcement unit is to investigate suspected driving while intoxicated offenses, initiated by a DWI Officer or upon receipt of information from any other source. Officers shall respond to requests for assistance from other officers conducting DWI investigations and, when feasible, shall report to the scene to conduct Field Sobriety Evaluations in accordance with department policy and training. Currently, the unit consists of two sergeants and nine officers. The unit is split into two teams, and their days off are scheduled so that both teams work on Saturday. This is done intentionally as the highest number of DWIs is seen Saturday evening into Sunday morning.

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Productivity

In 2024, the Fort Worth Police Department reported 789 DWI-related arrests. In 2025, the department reported 1,040 arrests (32% increase) for DWI-related offenses. Of those arrests, the DWI unit accounted for 532 (67.4% of total) in 2024 and 632 (60.7% of total) in 2025. In total, the DWI unit is responsible for approximately 63.6% of all DWI-related arrests over the past two years.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total DWI arrests</i>	<i>DWI Unit Arrests</i>	<i>Percent of arrests</i>
2024	789	532	67.4
2025	1040	632	60.7
Totals	1829	1164	63.6

The above data refers only to stops or actions in which a DWI arrest was made. The DWI unit is also responsible for approximately 3,069 traffic stops over the two-year period. These traffic stops resulted in warnings, citations, and/or arrests for various non-DWI offenses.

Additional Steps Taken

The Fort Worth Police Department routinely conducts social media campaigns during the holidays to educate the community about the consequences of drinking and driving. These consequences include up to 180 days in jail and a fine not to exceed \$2,000.00 for a DWI, and get more severe when injuries or deaths are involved. Penalties are also increased when a child is in the vehicle or when the driver has been previously convicted of DWI offenses.

Additional questions or information requests should be directed to Lieutenant Matthew Medders at 817-392-4858

**Jesus “Jay” Chapa
City Manager**