



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 7, 2017

DWI March of Sorrow / March of Hope & DAY Y: Youth Taking Action, March 9, 2017

WHAT: DWI March of Sorrow / March of Hope

WHERE/WHEN: Thursday, March 9, 2017

Press Conference-12:30 pm Rotunda of the Roundhouse

Start of March-12:55 pm East Lobby Entrance of the Roundhouse

WHO: More than 400 youth and adults

WHY: To honor the 166 New Mexico lives lost to DWI in 2016

Santa Fe, NM-Join us at the Roundhouse to commemorate the 166 New Mexican DWI fatalities in 2016.

Over the past year, the New Mexico Department of Transportation has reported an increase in DWI-related deaths. In 2015, there were 120 alcohol-involved fatalities. There were 166 DWI deaths in 2016, of which 60 were individuals under the age of 21. This is our State's story of sorrow. What is hopeful, however, are the youth in our communities who recognize these deaths as 100% preventable and who are committed to raising awareness among their peers and state lawmakers.

The 8th Annual DWI March of Sorrow / March of Hope is Thursday, March 9, 2017 at the New Mexico State Capitol (490 Old Santa Fe Trail at Paseo de Peralta). At 12:30 pm, a press conference will be led by Student Wellness Action Team (SWAT) High School Interns. There will be musical performances and speeches by local students, and Doug Shupe of AAA New Mexico in the Rotunda.

At 12:55 pm, the DWI March will start at the East Lobby Entrance of the State Capitol. More than 400 youth and adults are expected to participate. Youth will lead a silent march into our community to remember those killed by DWI, to recognize those who have fought against DWI in New Mexico, and to honor our youth's commitment to eliminate DWI in our communities. Student Wellness Action Team and Santa Fe Prep high school students will also be engaging in a panel discussion with State Legislators on important topics at 9:30 am in Committee Room 305 on the same day.

"The significant increase of fatalities due to alcohol related crashes this year is concerning." says Jennifer Romero, Program Manager for the Teen Court of Santa Fe County and Chairwoman of the Santa Fe Prevention Alliance, "I commend our youth for continuing this effort by bringing attention to the issue in such an impactful way. I would urge those who share this concern to support the efforts of ending DWI in our state by attending the march and asking the leaders of our state to take more action to impact this issue."

The Student Wellness Action Teams, Santa Fe Prevention Alliance, and AAA New Mexico invite our community to join us in a walk toward a brighter future and honor the ongoing work of prevention programs, county DWI programs, law enforcement efforts, legal system commitments, and community activism.

We will be posting videos and photos on the SWAT Facebook page Thursday evening that you are welcome to use. Here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/santafeSWAT/>.

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Media inquiries please contact Brendon Baca: (505) 469-4341 or brbaca@sfps.k12.nm.us.