



For Immediate Release

Sept. 28, 2012

**Five Community Forums on Drinking and Driving by Our Youth and Young Adults
Set for October by Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County**

Fairfax County residents are encouraged to join the conversation about drinking and driving by attending one of five community forums set for October. The events, sponsored by the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County (UPC), are part of an effort to put a major dent in the number of alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes involving youth and young adults.

From 2006 to 2011, Fairfax County had more than 1,900 motor vehicle crashes involving alcohol-impaired drivers ages 15 to 24. At each forum, to be facilitated by George Mason University, crash data will be shared, and those attending will be asked what they think are the primary causes of these motor vehicle crashes. The forums are designed for adults 18 and older. Collaborating with UPC in hosting the forums are the Fairfax County Police Department, Annandale and West Potomac High Schools, and Safe Community Coalition.

“We hope to obtain a better understanding of community perceptions related to underage drinking, binge drinking, and drinking and driving as well as enforcement of the drinking laws,” said UPC President Lisa Adler.

The forums will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m., except where noted:

Tuesday, Oct. 2	West Potomac High School (Kogelman Theatre)
Tuesday, Oct. 2 (revised date)	West Springfield Government Center * begins at 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 9	McLean Community Center (Community Room)
Tuesday, Oct. 16	Sully Governmental Center
Wednesday, Oct. 17	Annandale High School (Clausen Hall)

The UPC is a nonprofit organization with more than 50 community partners dedicated to the prevention of violence, alcohol, and other drug use by youth and young adults. UPC earlier this year received a Virginia State Incentive Grant to conduct a community assessment to identify underlying causes of underage and binge drinking that lead to alcohol-related motor vehicles crashes of drivers age 15-24 in Fairfax County. For more information, please call 703-938-8723 or visit www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org.

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