



City of La Porte

Established 1892

Police Department

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Media Relations Information for 01/20/2017

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LPPD traffic stop for speeding reveals 5th DWI offense



Fred Swanagan
08/20/1951

A speeding vehicle along La Porte's 2300 block of Underwood road resulted in the encounter and arrest of 65 year-old Fred Swanagan, of La Porte, for the offense of Driving While Intoxicated. However, while DWI represents a serious offense, the arrest and charge may have led to much more.

The event began shortly before 2:30 a.m., during the early morning hours of January 20th, whereupon Swanagan drove northbound along Underwood road. Swanagan was observed by a patrolling LPPD Unit exceeding the speed limit and was stopped for the violation. The officer quickly observed not only the odor of an alcoholic beverage emitting from the cab of Swanagan's vehicle, but several other signs of intoxication, supported by various clues displayed by Swanagan during a subsequent series of field sobriety tests. Swanagan was eventually placed in custody for suspicion of DWI, and later consented to an alcohol consumption-related blood draw at the police facility.

Based on the totality of the circumstances, the Harris County District Attorney's Office accepted felony DWI charges against Swanagan. If convicted, Swanagan's felony-level DWI charge, represents the 5th time he would have been arrested and convicted for the same infraction. In addition, because of the seriousness of Swanagan's 5th DWI offense, his vehicle was seized by police and its possession will undergo legal review for permanent confiscation from Swanagan.

The LPPD would like to remind the motoring public that, according to the National Highway and Transportation Safety Administration, driving while intoxicated is the number one cause of fatal crashes in the U.S. In fact, each and every day, an average of 29 people in the U.S. die in motor vehicle crashes involving an alcohol-impaired driver.