



STATEMENT TO THE SENATE

by

Senator Curtis Richardson
Junior Minister of Transport

Road Safety Council –Designated Driver Campaign

Wednesday, 15 December 2021

Madam President, it is a sobering fact that 16 lives have been lost to road traffic accidents in 2021 - I extend my condolences to the families and friends grieving the untimely loss of a loved one.

Madam President, through to New Year's Eve celebration, holiday parties will be taking place, which is why the Bermuda Road Safety Council's ("the Council") slogan for December is - **Designate YOUR Driver!**

Madam President, a designated driver, is crucial for everyone to enjoy a safe holiday season. Designated drivers are an integral part of keeping roads safe, and by educating friends and family, we can work together to lower the number of accidents and deaths.

Madam President, an alarming trend observed by the the Council is persons choosing the "person who seems least intoxicated" of the group to get behind the wheel after a night of drinking instead of a completely sober driver. That is why it is crucial to designate a driver before any drinking occurs.

There will be an increase in events and parties where alcohol will be consumed in the holiday season. The Council encourages all event planners, organisers and hosts of large events to incorporate a Transportation Plan. For assistance with implementing a Transportation Plan for your event, organisers should, in advance of the event, email bdarsc@gmail.com or contact the Road Traffic Officer at 707-2349.

Madam President, we want everyone to have a safe holiday. I take this opportunity to remind the public that if you cannot secure a designated driver, remember that there are other ways to get home safe without getting behind the wheel, such as hiring a taxi, limousine, or minibus, using Homesafe, or calling a family member or friend to come to pick you up. Additionally, I would like to acknowledge CADA for hosting their annual "Let Us Drive" initiative, which commenced on 9 December. The programme runs from outside the LOM Building on the corner of Burnaby Street and Reid Street in Hamilton between 12.15 am and 12:45 am. The service can take home up to 24 people a night, and will run on 16-18 December, 30 December, and New Year's Eve.

Thank you, **Madam President**.

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