



OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contact:
Bryant Payne (312) 603-5690
bdpayne@cookcountycourt.com

Task Force Named in Honor of Slain Construction Worker Makes Significant Progress to Improve Illinois DUI Laws

CHICAGO (October 16, 2006) - The Honorable Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, and members of the Tina Ball Memorial DUI Task Force will have a closing ceremony to highlight their accomplishments to strengthen DUI laws in Illinois on October 17, in the James R. Thompson Center Auditorium, 100 W. Randolph St., at 10 a.m.

"I sincerely thank the Tina Ball Memorial DUI Task Force members for working unrelentingly with me to create solutions that should help keep intoxicated motorists off Illinois streets so citizens can remain safe," said Clerk Brown.

Clerk Brown will review all of the Task Force's achievements and present awards to: **Ms. Marti Belluschi**, Alcohol Programs Coordinator, Illinois Department of Transportation; **Mr. Kevin Doyle**, Department Director, Alcohol and Drug Assessment Services Central States Institute of Addiction; **Ms. Charlene Chapman**, Executive Director, Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists; **Mr. Jeff Kaplan**, DUI Program Coordinator, Loretto Hospital; **Captain Leonard Stallworth**, Region 1 Commander, Illinois State Police and **Ms. Anna M. Johnson**, sister of Tina Ball and **Mr. David Ball**, widow of Tina Ball, for their hard work and dedication.

The DUI Task Force, named in honor of Mrs. Tina Ball, a mother of seven and road construction flagger who was struck and killed in a work zone on Interstate 57 by a drunken driver in 2003, is comprised of representatives of several agencies and organizations that deal with the issue of drunk driving.

The mission of the Tina Ball Memorial DUI Task Force was to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas concerning the recording and communication of information on DUI offenders as it impacts the community at large. In addition, the Task Force shared thoughts on how the Clerk of the Circuit Court's Office could heighten awareness of its functions.

During the inaugural meeting held in May 2004, the Task Force established the following subcommittees: Changes to the Law, Community Outreach to DUI Offenders and Border States.

Since that initial meeting, the Task Force has conducted quarterly meetings and discussed actions taken to significantly curb the disastrous effects of drunken driving in Cook County. The Task Force has made many accomplishments that include: an examination of current DUI laws in Illinois, drafted letters and proposals to Illinois Congressmen endorsing or opposing DUI legislation and worked to make more police departments aware of the Secretary of State's "hot sheet" that lists drivers with suspended or revoked licenses.

The Task Force partnering agencies include: AAA Chicago Motor Club, Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists, Central States Institute of Addiction, Chicago Police Department, Cook County Employee Assistance Program, Cook County Sheriff's Office, Cook County State's Attorney's Office, Greater Cook County Council of Police Chiefs, Illinois Criminal Justice Integration Authority, Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Secretary of State, Illinois State Police, Lemont Police Department, Loretto Hospital, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, National Safety Council and the West Suburban Police Chiefs' Association.

###