



NEWS RELEASE

DIVISION OF POLICE • COLUMBUS, OHIO

ELAINE R. BRYANT • CHIEF OF POLICE

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MA# 12-2022

Operation Wheels Down

In response to the complaints surrounding ATVs and dirt bikes in and around Columbus, the Columbus Division of Police has put together a strategic plan and also partnered with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and the City Attorney's Office to address the complaints.

On Saturday, May 7, 2022, the first "Operation Wheels Down" took place. Through the hard work of the individuals involved, along with the assistance of the community, the Division followed through on their commitment to address the ATV and dirt bike complaints.

Statistics from our operation last weekend:

- 11 people were arrested or summonsed (Charges include No Operators License, OVI, Reckless Operation, Failure to Comply).
- 2 Addition traffic citations were issued
- 2 of the arrests included Felony Charges (1 Aggravated Possession of Drugs & 1 Carrying a Concealed Weapon)
- 1 firearm was recovered (the firearm that was recovered was stolen)
- 1 of the individuals arrested was a wanted felon (Receiving Stolen Property, Obstructing, & Failure to Comply).
- One of the individuals arrested was missing person from a nearby county in Ohio
- 9 ATVs / dirt bikes were impounded and held as evidence



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The Division of Police along with their partners in these operations are committed to and will continue to address this safety issue that is impacting not only Columbus neighborhoods, but the neighborhoods of surrounding jurisdictions, and the safety of everyone on our streets and freeways.

Throughout these operations, we will continue to address complaints and also gather video evidence of individuals engaging in criminal offenses. We will be investigating these offenses and will ask the community to help us identify those individuals that have been lawlessly putting everyone at risk on the road and in our neighborhoods.

We will release videos and photos of those we need to identify at a later date.

Additional operations will take place throughout the spring and summer!

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