



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

Norfolk DA Morrissey provides alcohol safety training free for area servers

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District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey held the first of ten safety training sessions for local bar tenders and wait staff who serve alcohol Monday as part of his continuing campaign to prevent impaired driving in Norfolk County.

"We see hundreds of impaired driving crashes every year. Roughly one a week involves serious injury or death," Morrissey told the group assembled in a function room donated by the Franklin Country Club. "We need your help. You are often in the best position to intercede when someone has had all they can safely have. We want people to enjoy themselves, but also get home safely."

Training for Intervention ProcedureS, commonly referred to as "TIPS Training," is not required by state law to be a server, "but it is an important set of tools on how to use changes in a patron's judgment, coordination and other signs to assess when they have had enough. They are skills that can end up saving lives," District Attorney Morrissey said.

The Norfolk DA's Office was awarded one of just five education and prevention grants from the state Drunk Driving Trust Fund this year, and providing 10 TIPS training sessions is an important part of using that grant, Morrissey said. "We can seat 35 servers at each training, so we are hoping for about 350 more TIPS-trained servers in Norfolk County by the time we are done," Morrissey said. Subsequent trainings will be held at Legacy Place in Dedham and Patriot Place in Foxborough in the coming weeks.

Employees from the Franklin Country Club, Alumni and Artistry Kitchen, as well as Vinitas WineWorks in Norfolk, spent five hours with Master TIPS Trainer Mike Marcantonio. The group also spoke briefly with Franklin Police Chief Stephen Semerjian, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission's chief investigator, Ted Mahoney, District Attorney Morrissey and Franklin state Rep. Jeffrey Roy. "Your role is so important in preventing drunk driving," Rep. Roy said. "You are the ones right with your clients at the moment it counts."