



News Release

National Safety Council · 1121 Spring Lake Drive · Itasca, IL 60143 · media@nsc.org

For Immediate Release
Feb. 9, 2012

Contact: Kathy Lane
Communications Director
Phone: (630) 775-2307

National Safety Council to designate Hammond, LA, a Safe Community

Itasca, IL – The National Safety Council is to designate Hammond, LA, as a Safe Community through its Safe Communities America program. Hammond is the first city in Louisiana, the 18th in the United States, and 269th in the world to be recognized as an international Safe Community.

"We are privileged to work with the Mayor, local businesses and citizens of Hammond, along with local and state government, to demonstrate our collective commitment to reduce the numbers and costs of injuries in the community. Now the world will know what we have known for a long time, that Hammond, Louisiana, is a Safe Community," said Beth Inbau, president and CEO of the National Safety Council, South Louisiana Chapter.

Through the Safe Community designation process, a coalition – made up of local businesses, the fire protection district, park district, law enforcement, public health organizations and schools – is formed to create and improve programs to cover identified risk areas that specifically address community-specific injury data.

Upon review of the data and hazards surrounding Hammond, coalition members have been devoting time and resources since 2009 to create programs to address safety issues facing the city. Successes include a No Fall Zone task force created to address older adult fall prevention. Also, the Tangipahoa Reshaping Attitudes for Community Change (TRACC) and Crime Stoppers have come together to address crime, underage drinking, DWIs and to promote healthy behaviors for teens. The city of Hammond is pleased to report that underage drinking is on the decline.

The international Safe Community designation is based on six criteria:

- A cross-sectional partnership responsible for the promotion of community safety
- Long-term sustainable programs for all genders, ages, environments and situations
- Programs targeting high-risk groups and environments
- Programs documenting the frequency and causes of injuries
- Evaluation measures to assess programs and the effects of change
- Ongoing participation in national and international Safe Communities networks

"We have been very impressed with the way organizations and businesses in Hammond are working together to protect residents. They are better positioned to prevent injuries and deaths through this collaborative approach," said Donna Stein-Harris, senior director of Safe Communities America for the National Safety Council.

NSC is the International Certifying Center for the U.S. through the Safe Communities America program, guiding community stakeholders to reduce injuries and promote safety for the residents of their communities. NSC will present the Safe Community designation to Mayor Foster at ceremony on Feb. 17.

For more information, please visit www.safecommunitiesamerica.org.

- more -

About the National Safety Council

Founded in 1913 and chartered by Congress, the National Safety Council (nsc.org) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to save lives by preventing injuries and deaths at work, in homes and communities, and on the road through leadership, research, education and advocacy. NSC advances this mission by partnering with businesses, government agencies, elected officials and the public in areas where we can make the most impact -- distracted driving, teen driving, workplace safety and safety beyond the workplace.

Connect with NSC:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[YouTube](#)

###