



Oakland Police Department

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PRESS RELEASE

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Oakland Police to Combat DUI Deaths and Injuries Through Traffic Safety Program

The Oakland Police Department has been awarded a new traffic safety grant for a year-long anti-DUI program aimed at preventing deaths and injuries on our roadways. Additional enforcement measures in place to combat impaired driving are coming as a result of a recent grant awarded to Oakland by the California Office of Traffic Safety. The Oakland Police Department is dedicated to keeping our streets safe through both enforcement and education.

“DUI arrests can be embarrassing and expensive, but they're easy to prevent,” said Lt Sharon Williams. “If you're drinking, hand your keys over to a designated sober driver, or call a taxi or sober friend for a ride home. Don't risk an arrest or worse, a serious injury or even death.”

The special DUI Enforcement and Awareness grant is to assist in efforts to reduce the number of persons killed and injured in alcohol and other drug-related collisions in the community. The grant activities will specifically target impaired driving offenders as well as educate the public on the dangers of impaired driving. This will be done through the use of DUI/driver's license checkpoints, warrant sweeps, saturation patrols, and court stings where DUI offenders with suspended or revoked driver licenses get behind the wheel after leaving court.

Drunk driving is one of America's deadliest crimes. In 2009, over 10,839 people died in highway crashes involving a driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08 or higher. California data for 2009 shows that 950 people died in Alcohol Impaired Collisions, a 76 percent reduction in deaths from 2008.

“Everyone in California should be heartened with these figures,” said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS). “But as encouraging as this is, we can’t let up on the efforts to promote and enforce traffic safety. Far too many are still losing their lives or being severely injured on our roadways.”

“These figures represent more people making it home safely and alive each day,” said Murphy. “But to keep this trend going, we will continue to strive to meet our vision – *Toward zero deaths, every 1 counts.*”

Funding for this program is provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

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