



City of
OAKLAND
California

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News from: **Oakland Police Department**



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**OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT TO COMBAT
TRAFFIC DEATHS AND INJURIES WITH SPECIAL
PROGRAM**

Oakland, CA — Oakland Police Department has been awarded a new \$55,000.00 traffic safety grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety. This grant is for an anti-DUI program aimed at preventing deaths and injuries on our roadways. The Oakland Police Department is dedicated to keeping our streets safe through both enforcement and education.

“Our message is simple and unwavering: if we find you driving impaired, we will arrest you. No exceptions,” said Chief Jordan. “Even if you beat the odds and manage to walk away from an impaired-driving crash alive, the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving while impaired can still destroy your life.”

The special DUI Checkpoint 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 educating the public on the dangers of impaired driving through the use of DUI/driver’s license checkpoints. When possible, specially trained officers will be available to evaluate those suspected of drug-impaired driving.

Drunk and drug-impaired driving are among America’s deadliest crimes. In 2010, 791 people were killed and over 24,000 were injured in alcohol and drug-impaired crashes in California. In 2010, The City of Oakland experienced 15 people killed and 129 people injured in these tragic crashes. Crashes involving alcohol dropped by an average of 20 percent when well-publicized checkpoints are conducted. Checkpoints have proven to be the most effective of any of the DUI enforcement strategies, while yielding considerable cost savings of \$6 for every \$1 spent.

“DUI checkpoints have been an essential part of the phenomenal reduction in DUI deaths that we witnessed from 2006 to 2010 in California,” said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the Office of Traffic Safety. “But since the tragedy of DUI accounts for nearly one third of traffic fatalities, Oakland needs the high visibility enforcement and public awareness that this grant will provide.”

Funding for this program is from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

For additional information please contact the Oakland Police Departments Traffic Operations Section at (510) 777-8637 or plau@oaklandnet.com
For more information, please contact the Media Relations Office at 510-238-7230 or opdmedia@oaklandnet.com.