



City of
OAKLAND
California

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News from: **Oakland Police Department**



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DUI/Driver's License Checkpoint Planned for August 22 – Labor Day

Oakland, CA – The Oakland Police Department Traffic Unit will be conducting a DUI Driver's License check point from August 22 to September 7, 2015 (Labor Day) at an undisclosed location within the city limits.

The 18-day, high-visibility campaign, *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*, is a partnership with the California Office of Traffic Safety to curb impaired driving and save lives.

Officers will be looking for signs of alcohol and/or drug impairment. Motorists may be momentarily delayed as officers check for proper licensing. When possible, specially trained officers will be available to evaluate those suspected of drug-impaired driving.

In 2013, 10,076 people were killed in drunk-driving crashes, accounting for almost a third of all traffic fatalities that year, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). In California, 867 people died in drunk-driving collisions in 2013 according to NHTSA. Thirty-eight percent of crash fatalities on Labor Day weekend that year involved drunk drivers with a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) of 0.08 percent or higher. And we're not just talking about a little bit of alcohol, either. More than a quarter (27 percent) of the crash fatalities that occurred on Labor Day weekend involved drivers with BACs of 0.15 percent or higher – almost twice the illegal limit.

NHTSA data shows that repeat offenders are an especially dangerous facet of the drunk-driving problem. In the month of August from 2009-2013, almost 1 out of 10 (8 percent) of drunk drivers involved in fatal crashes had already been convicted of at least one prior drunk-driving offense.

Law enforcement emphasizes the preventable nature of drunk-driving. All it takes is a little planning ahead. Designate a sober driver or call a cab. But whatever you do, don't drink and drive.

The California Office of Traffic Safety DDVIP (Designated Driver VIP) mobile app is now available for free download on iOS and Android devices. Launched last year, the new DDVIP app offers enhanced features, allowing users to "Map a Spot" with their current location to find DDVIP partnering establishments in their area or a "List of Spots" to search all participating bars and restaurants throughout California.

Users will be offered free incentives at each bar to celebrate their lifesaving role. They can stay up-to-date with the latest from DDVIP and see what other users are saying via its social tab. Also, for those who want to imbibe but also make it a point to plan ahead, users can easily order a sober ride from Uber, Lyft or Curb – all from one screen on the DDVIP mobile app.

Recent statistics reveal that 30 percent of drivers in fatal crashes had one or more drugs in their systems. A study of active drivers showed more tested positive for drugs that may impair driving (14 percent) than did for alcohol (7.3 percent). Of the drugs, marijuana was most prevalent, at 7.4 percent, slightly more than alcohol. Everyone should be mindful that if you're taking medication – whether prescription or over-the-counter – drinking even small amounts of alcohol can greatly intensify the impairment affects.

So this August and year-round, remember that there's no excuse for drunk or impaired driving. If you choose to break the law, police, sheriff and CHP officials will see you before you see them. *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.*

Funding for this special campaign is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration who reminds everyone: Report Drunk Drivers! – Call 9-1-1.

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To schedule an interview regarding the Oakland Police Department Traffic Operations, please contact the Public Information Officer, Officer Johnna Watson at (510) 238-7230 or via email at opdmedia@oaklandnet.com.

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