



News from: Oakland Police Department



For Immediate Release

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Oakland Police Department Receives Grant for Special Traffic Enforcement and Crash Prevention

Oakland, CA – The Oakland Police Department (OPD) has been awarded a \$290,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for a year-long program of special enforcement activity and public awareness efforts aimed at preventing traffic-related deaths and injuries. OPD will use the funding as part of the City of Oakland’s ongoing commitment to keep our roadways safe and improve the quality of life through both enforcement and education.

Media Contact:

Officer Johnna Watson
Media Relations Office
510-238-7230
opdmedia@oaklandnet.com

“If we find you driving impaired, we will arrest you; no exceptions,” Chief Sean Whent warned. “Even if you beat the odds and survive an impaired driving crash, the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving while impaired can still have a heavy impact on your life.”

After falling dramatically between 2006 and 2010, the number of persons killed and injured in traffic collisions has been slowly rising. Particularly worrisome are recent increases in pedestrian and bicycle fatalities, the growing dangers of distracting technologies, and the emergence of drug-impaired driving as a major problem. This grant funding will provide opportunities to combat these and other devastating problems such as drunk driving, speeding and crashes at intersections.

“Overall, California’s roadways are among the safest in the nation,” said OTS Director Rhonda Craft. “But to meet future mobility, safety, and accessible transportation objectives, we have to reverse this recent trend in order to reach our common goal – zero deaths on our roadways. The Office of Traffic Safety and the Oakland Police Department want to work with everyone to create a culture of traffic safety across Oakland and the state.”

Activities that the grant will fund include:

- Compilation of DUI “Hot Sheets,” identifying worst-of-the-worst DUI offenders
- Distracted driving enforcement
- DUI checkpoints
- DUI saturation patrols
- Educational presentations
- Motorcycle safety enforcement
- Purchase of police motorcycles to be used in traffic enforcement
- Seat belt and child safety seat enforcement

- Specialized DUI and drugged driving training such as Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE), and Drug Recognition Evaluator (DRE)
- Speed, red light and stop sign enforcement

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

For more information, please contact Lieutenant Dave Elzey. OPD Traffic Operations Section, at 510-777-8637.

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