



News from: **Oakland Police Department**



For Immediate Release

December 1, 2016

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

Oakland, CA – The Oakland Police Department has been awarded a \$753,350 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. The department 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.

“It takes a collaborative effort in keeping roadways safe for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians in our city. Please consider the consequences and potential tragedies that could result from unsafe driving. Take your safety and that of others seriously,” said Oakland Police Assistant Chief David Downing.

After falling to a ten year low in 2010, the number of persons killed has climbed nearly 17% across the state with 3,176 killed in 2015 according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Particularly alarming is the six year rise in pedestrian and bicycle fatalities, along with 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.

“Years of research tell us that enforcement and education work best jointly to combat unsafe driving,” said OTS Director Rhonda Craft. “This grant brings both tactics together, with the Office of Traffic Safety and the Oakland Police Department working in concert to help keep the streets and highways safe across Oakland and the state.”

Activities that the grant will fund include:

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

Media Contact:

Officer Johnna Watson
Officer Marco Marquez
Media Relations Office
(510) 238-7230
opdmedia@oaklandnet.com

- Specialized DUI and drugged driving training such as Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) and Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE)
- Speed, red light and stop sign enforcement
- Pedestrian and bicycle safety 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.

#