



City of
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DUI/Driver's License Checkpoints Planned for Oakland

Oakland, CA – Due to the increase in drunk-driving-related fatalities around the holidays each year, law enforcement agencies across America will be actively searching for and arresting drunk drivers from December 16, 2016 to January 1, 2017. The Oakland Police Department Traffic Section will be conducting DUI/Driver's License Checkpoint on December 30, 2016.

The deterrent effect of high visibility enforcement using both DUI checkpoints and DUI saturation patrols has proven to lower the number of persons killed and injured in alcohol- or drug-impaired crashes. Research shows that crashes involving an impaired driver can be reduced by up to 20 percent when well-publicized proactive DUI operations are routinely conducted.

DUI/Driver's License Checkpoints, like the two planned for later this month, are placed in locations affording the greatest opportunity for achieving drunk and drugged driving deterrence based on collision statistics and frequency of DUI arrests. Locations are chosen with safety considerations for the officers and the public.

In California, alcohol-involved collisions led to 1,155 deaths and nearly 24,000 serious injuries in 2014 because someone failed to designate a sober driver. Over the course of the past three years, Oakland police officers have investigated over 400 DUI collisions which have claimed 8 lives and resulted in another 174 injuries.

Officers will be looking for signs of alcohol and/or drug impairment and checking drivers for proper licensing. Motorists can expect only momentary delays. When possible, specially trained officers will be available to evaluate those suspected of drug-impaired driving, which now accounts for a growing number of impaired driving crashes.

Studies of California drivers have shown 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.

Drivers are encouraged to download the Designated Driver VIP, or "DDVIP," a free mobile app for Android or iPhone. The DDVIP app helps find nearby bars and restaurants that feature free incentives for the designated sober driver, from free non-alcoholic drinks to free appetizers and more. The feature-packed app even has social media tie-ins and a tab for the non-DD to call Uber, Lyft or Curb.

Drivers caught driving impaired can expect the impact of a DUI arrest to include jail time, fines, fees, DUI classes, license suspensions and other expenses that can exceed \$10,000 – not to mention the embarrassment when friends and family find out.

Funding for the checkpoints is provided to the Oakland Police Department by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which reminds everyone to ‘Report Drunk Driver – Call 9-1-1’.

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