



City of
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Driving Under the Influence/Driver's License Checkpoint Planned for Oakland

Oakland, CA – The Oakland Police Department Traffic Section will be conducting a DUI/Driver's License Checkpoint on Friday, March 17, 2017.

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 and/or drug impaired collisions. Research shows that collisions involving an impaired driver can be reduced by up to 20 percent when well-publicized, proactive DUI operations are conducted routinely.

Motorists will only be delayed momentarily as officers look for signs of alcohol and/or drug impairment and check drivers for proper licensing. 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 collisions.

DUI/Driver's License Checkpoints like the one planned for Friday are strategically placed based on collision statistics and frequency of DUI arrests. Going to these locations provides the greatest opportunity for deterring alcohol and/or drug-impaired driving. 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. Over the past three years, Oakland police officers have investigated over 400 DUI collisions, which have claimed 8 lives and resulted in another 174 injuries.

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.

Studies of California drivers have shown that 30 percent of drivers in fatal collisions 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). The most prevalent drug was marijuana, at 7.4 percent, slightly more than alcohol.

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 has social media tie-ins and even includes 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.

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, reminding everyone to 'Report Drunk Driver – Call 9-1-1'.

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