



OCEANSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE



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OCEANSIDE POLICE TO COMBAT ROADWAY DEATHS AND INJURIES WITH DUI CHECKPOINTS

The Oceanside Police Department has been awarded a new traffic safety grant for an anti-DUI program aimed at preventing deaths and injuries on Oceanside roadways. Enforcement measures to combat impaired driving are coming as a result of a recent \$219,578.00 grant awarded by the California Office of Traffic Safety to the City of Oceanside (\$108,450.00 for DUI/driver's license checkpoints and \$111,128.00 for other enforcement operations). The Oceanside Police Department is dedicated to keeping our streets safe through both enforcement and education.

Oceanside Police Chief Frank S. McCoy states, "We are grateful for this grant award from the California Office of Traffic Safety that affords us the opportunity to concentrate our traffic enforcement efforts on the traffic issues that compromise the safety of our community."

The special DUI Checkpoint grant is to assist in efforts to reduce the number of persons killed and injured in alcohol and other drug related collisions in the community. The grant activities will specifically target impaired driving offenders, as well as educating the public on the dangers of impaired driving through the use of DUI/driver's license checkpoints. When possible, specially trained officers will be available to evaluate those suspected of drug-impaired driving.

Drunk and drugged driving are among America's deadliest crimes. In 2011, a modern day low of 774 people were killed and over 24,000 injured in alcohol and drug-impaired crashes in California. Last year, Oceanside experienced two fatalities and 66 injuries in these tragic crashes. Crashes involving alcohol have been shown to drop by up to 20 percent when well-publicized checkpoints are conducted often enough. Checkpoints have proven to be the most effective of any of the DUI enforcement strategies, while yielding considerable cost savings of \$6 for every \$1 spent and are supported by nearly 90 percent of California drivers.

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

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