



Vacaville Police Department

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Press Release

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Vacaville Police to combat roadway deaths and injuries with DUI checkpoints

The Vacaville Police Department has been awarded a new traffic safety grant for an anti-DUI program aimed at preventing deaths and injuries on our roadways. Additional enforcement measures to combat impaired driving are coming as a result of a recent \$55,350 grant awarded by the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to the Vacaville Police Department. The Vacaville Police Department is dedicated to keeping our streets safe through both enforcement and education.

Vacaville Police Chief Richard Word praised the California Office of Traffic Safety for making such grant dollars available to local law enforcement. According to Chief Word, "These funds come just before the holiday season begins when, sadly, my officers respond to far too many serious vehicle collisions caused by impaired drivers. We will make wise use of these funds by raising the awareness of our community around this critically important issue and targeting impaired drivers in a series of DUI checkpoints. These DUI enforcement efforts will lead to fewer serious collisions, which will mean fewer injuries and lives saved."

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 2010, 791 people were killed and over 24,000 injured in alcohol and drug-impaired crashes in California. Last year, Vacaville experienced two killed and 30 injured in these tragic crashes. Crashes involving alcohol drop by an average of 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.

"DUI checkpoints have been an essential part of the phenomenal reduction in DUI deaths that we witnessed from 2006 to 2010 in California," said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the Office of Traffic Safety. "But since the tragedy of DUI accounts for nearly one third of traffic fatalities, Vacaville needs the high visibility enforcement and public awareness that this grant will provide."

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

Criminal activity can be reported at www.cityofvacaville.com/departments/police, or you can call "Crime Stoppers" and leave an anonymous tip at 707-644-STOP.(7867). Crime Stoppers may pay up to \$1,000 for information that leads to an arrest.