



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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DUI/Drivers License checkpoint Planned this Friday

The Vacaville Police Department Traffic Unit will be conducting a DUI/Drivers License Checkpoint between the hours of 8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. on December 21, 2012 at an undisclosed location within the city limits.

The deterrent effect of DUI checkpoints is a proven resource in reducing the number of persons killed and injured in alcohol- or drug-involved crashes. Research shows that crashes involving alcohol drop by an average of 20 percent when well-publicized checkpoints are conducted often enough.

Officers will be contacting drivers passing through the checkpoint for signs of alcohol and/or drug impairment. Officers will also check drivers for proper licensing and will strive to delay motorists only momentarily. When possible, specially trained officers will be available to evaluate those suspected of drug-impaired driving. Drivers caught driving impaired can expect jail, license suspension, and insurance increases, as well as fines, fees, DUI classes, and other expenses that can exceed \$10,000.

In 2010, over 10,000 people were killed nationally in motor vehicle traffic crashes that involved at least one driver or motorcycle rider with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 percent or higher. In California, this deadly crime led to 791 deaths because someone failed to designate a sober driver. "Last year, Vacaville experienced two killed and 30 injured in these tragic crashes," said Sergeant Mark Donaldson.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), checkpoints have provided the most effective documented results of any of the DUI enforcement strategies, while also yielding considerable cost savings of \$6 for every \$1 spent. Based on collision statistics and frequency of DUI arrests, DUI Checkpoints are placed in locations that have the greatest opportunity for achieving drunk and drugged driving deterrence. Locations are chosen with safety considerations for the officers and the public.

"DUI Checkpoints have been an essential part of the phenomenal reduction in DUI deaths that we witnessed since 2006 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 checkpoints provide."

Funding for this checkpoint is provided to the Vacaville Police Department by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, reminding everyone to continue to work together to bring an end to these tragedies. If you see a drunk driver, call 9-1-1.

MEDIA NOTES: To schedule an interview regarding the Vacaville Police Department Traffic Safety Operations, please contact Sergeant Mark Donaldson at (707) 449-5260 or via email at mdonaldson@cityofvacaville.com.