



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 11, 2013**

**CONTACT:
Sergeant Mark Donaldson
(707) 449-5260
mdonaldson@cityofvacaville.com**

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 Vacaville roadways. Enforcement measures to combat impaired driving are coming as a result of a recent \$59,420 grant awarded by the California Office of Traffic Safety to Vacaville. 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.

“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,” Word said. “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 educate the public on the dangers of impaired driving. When possible, specially trained officers will be available to evaluate those suspected of drug-impaired driving.

Drunk and drugged driving is 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, Vacaville experienced 22 injured in these tragic crashes. In 2011, there were two killed and 23 injured. 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.