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SANTA MONICA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Press Release

Combating Roadway Deaths and Injuries through DUI Checkpoints

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Santa Monica 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 $45,000 grant awarded by the California Office of Traffic Safety to Santa Monica. The Santa Monica Police Department is dedicated to keeping our streets safe through both enforcement and education.

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, 774 people were killed and over 24,000 injured in alcohol and drug-impaired crashes in California. 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.