



Huntington Beach Police Department

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Robert Handy, Chief of Police

MEDIA ADVISORY

Sergeant D. Dereszynski, Traffic Unit

Release Date/Time: May 20th, 2014 at 12:30 PM

Subject: Sobriety/Drivers License Checkpoint, Friday May 23rd

Case Number: N/A

Details:

The Huntington Beach Police Department's Traffic Unit will be conducting a Sobriety/Drivers License Checkpoint this Friday night, May 23rd, 2014. Impaired driving puts everyone on the road in danger, and we are doing everything we can to ensure that motorists enjoy a safe, crash-free Memorial Day weekend while driving in Huntington Beach.

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, looking for signs of alcohol and/or drug impairment. Officers will also check drivers for proper licensing and will strive to delay motorists only momentarily.

The Huntington Beach Police Department would like every resident and visitor to have an accident free experience while in our city. For this to happen, we all need to be on the look-out for impaired drivers. A drunk driver can strike at any place, any time, usually with drastic consequences to innocent people. While Memorial Day is a time to remember those military service members who have lost their lives serving our nation, it is has been overshadowed by an excess of DUI related collisions, injuries, fatalities, and arrests. A recent analysis of DUI investigations in Huntington Beach show that approximately 62% of the time the DUI drivers reported consuming two or less drinks but were found to have an average of .12% breath alcohol content, or one and one half times the legal limit. Beer was reported to be the most common type of alcohol consumed, followed by mixed drinks and wine. The common serving size of these drinks is 12 ounces of beer, five ounces of wine, and one and a half ounces of hard liquor. Always remember to drink responsibly and be aware that increasing the serving sizes of drinks can lead to greater impairment over a shorter period of time. Be aware, be proactive, and be involved!

Funding for this checkpoint is provided to the Huntington Beach 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. Report Drunk Drivers. Call 911!