



Huntington Beach Police Department

2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648

(714) 960-8811

Robert Handy, Chief of Police

MEDIA ADVISORY

Sergeant D. Dereszynski, Traffic Unit

Release Date/Time: November 12, 2014 at 8:00 AM

Subject: Huntington Beach Police Department Receives Grant for Special Traffic Enforcement and Crash Prevention

Case Number: N/A

Details:

The Huntington Beach Police Department has been awarded a \$435,226 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for a year-long program of special enforcements and public awareness efforts to prevent traffic related deaths and injuries. The Huntington Beach Police Department will use the funding as part of the city's ongoing commitment to keep our roadways safe and improve the quality of life through both enforcement and education.

The Huntington Beach Police Department has had a longstanding relationship with The California Office of Traffic Safety and we believe strongly in maintaining a safe environment for all pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists who travel on our roadways. For the last year, we have been implementing new educational and enforcement techniques aimed at reducing law violations and addressing behaviors and attitudes that contribute to our collisions. Alcohol continues to be a significant common denominator in many of our serious and fatal collisions. We have taken progressive steps and developed new programs, many of which are shared on social media, to end these tragic events.

After falling dramatically between 2006 and 2010, the number of persons killed and injured in traffic collisions saw slight increases in 2011 and 2012. Particularly worrisome are recent increases in pedestrian and motorcycle fatalities, and the dangers of distracting technologies. This grant funding will provide opportunities to combat these and other devastating problems such as drunk and drugged driving and speeding.

"California's roadways are still among the safest in the nation," said OTS Director Rhonda Craft. "But to meet future mobility, safety, and sustainability objectives, we must create safer roadways for all users. The Huntington Beach Police Department will be using these and other resources to reach the vision we all share – *Toward zero deaths, every 1 counts.*"



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Activities that the grant will fund include:

- One fulltime DUI officer added to the Traffic Unit
- DUI/Drivers License checkpoints
- DUI saturation patrols
- Educational presentations
- Motorcycle safety enforcement
- Distracted driving enforcement
- Pedestrian and bicycle enforcement
- Seat belt and child safety seat enforcement
- Speed, red light, and stop sign enforcement
- Warrant service operations targeting multiple DUI offenders
- Compilation of DUI "Hot Sheets," identifying worst-of-the-worst DUI offenders
- Specialized DUI and drugged driving training such as Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), **Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE)**, and Drug Recognition Evaluator (DRE)

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

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