



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Kenneth W. Small
Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE

Release Date: November 4th, 2013 **Time:** 4:30 PM **Prepared by:** Sergeant D. Dereszynski

Type of Incident: Office of Traffic Safety 2013-2014 STEP Grant Kick-Off Notification

Location: City of Huntington Beach

Date/Time of Occurrence: October 1st, 2013 through September 30th, 2014

Details:

HUNTINGTON BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES GRANT FOR SPECIAL TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT AND CRASH PREVENTION

The Huntington Beach Police Department has been awarded a \$270,264.00 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for a year-long program aimed at preventing deaths and injuries on our roadways through special enforcement and public awareness efforts. The grant received by Huntington Beach will aid in the city's ongoing effort to improve traffic safety and the quality of life. The Huntington Beach Police Department will use the funding as part of an on-going commitment to keep our roadways safe through both enforcement and education.

This year the Huntington Beach Police Department will be using new and innovative techniques to maximize the effectiveness of this grant to best benefit the public. We will be continuing our highly proactive enforcement efforts to reduce collision related injuries, fatalities, and excessive property damage.

A portion of the funding was earmarked for the addition of a DUI enforcement officer. The officer will be assigned to work days and hours which have been known to have statistically high alcohol and drug related collisions and arrests. The officer will also participate in our Sobriety/Drivers License Checkpoints and other grant related events. One of the grant objectives is to increase department-wide DUI arrests by 10%. Having a specially trained officer on the streets with a strong focus on DUI enforcement will undoubtedly make our citizens safer. Additionally, the officer will be available to respond to traffic collisions and other calls for service where alcohol and driving are involved.

Furthermore, the grant will assist in efforts to deal with traffic safety problems and to reduce the number of persons killed and injured in traffic collisions. Traffic deaths from all causes declined by nearly 39 percent between 2006 and 2010 in California, but rose by 2.6 percent in 2011. State and federal officials anticipate that figures will show another rise for 2012. DUI deaths remain the largest sector, at nearly 30 percent of traffic fatalities. Recent trends show increases in two new categories – distracted driving and drug-impaired driving.



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Activities that the grant will fund include:

- Specialized DUI and drugged driving training such as Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE), and Drug Recognition Expert (DRE).
- DUI saturation patrols
- Motorcycle safety enforcement operations
- Distracted driving enforcement operations
- Warrant service operations targeting multiple DUI offenders
- Traffic enforcement operations
- Compilation of DUI “Hot Sheets,” identifying worst-of-the-worst DUI offenders
- Addition of one traffic officer who will focus on DUI offenders and alcohol related violations

The grant will assist in efforts to deal with traffic safety problems and to reduce the number of persons killed and injured in traffic collisions. Traffic deaths from all causes declined by nearly 39 percent between 2006 and 2010 in California, but rose by 2.6 percent in 2011. State and federal officials anticipate that figures will show another rise for 2012. DUI deaths remain the largest sector, at nearly 30 percent of traffic fatalities. Recent trends show increases in two new categories – distracted driving and drug-impaired driving.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Report Drunk Drivers. Call 911!