



Huntington Beach Police Department

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Robert Handy, Chief of Police

MEDIA ADVISORY

Sergeant D. Dereszynski, Traffic Unit

Release Date/Time: August 13th, 2014 at 4:30 PM

Subject: Sobriety/Drivers License Checkpoint, Saturday, August 16th

Case Number: N/A

Details:

The Huntington Beach Police Department's Traffic Unit will be conducting a Sobriety/Drivers License Checkpoint this Saturday night, August 16th, 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 weekend in Huntington Beach as we approach the Labor Day holiday.

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. This weekend is the start of the National Crackdown on Drunk Driving and runs through September 1st. The message to be delivered during this enforcement period is "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over". Drunk driving kills more than 10,000 people every year. On average in 2012, one person was killed every 51 minutes in an alcohol-impaired driving crash. During the same period last year in Huntington Beach, there were 21 alcohol related collisions resulting in eight injuries. Our goal is reduce drunk driving year-round, not just during the crackdown. We're making progress, but there's still lots of work to do. We are asking motorists and passengers to plan a safe way home before drinking, designate a sober driver, arrange for a friend or taxi to pick you up, or use public transportation. As always, 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!