



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

2000 MAIN STREET
P.O. BOX 70

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Kenneth W. Small
Chief of Police

CALIFORNIA 92648
Tel: (714) 960-8811

PRESS RELEASE

Release Date: December 28, 2011 **Time:** 10:00 AM **Prepared by:** Sergeant J. Haught

Type of Incident: Sobriety/Driver's License Checkpoint

Location: City of Huntington Beach

Date/Time of Occurrence: December 30, 2011 @ 9:00 PM

Case Number: N/A

Details:

There Are No Holiday Festivities in Jail

RUOK? Is the Wrong Message to Send this Holiday Season

Huntington Beach, CA — As you celebrate the holiday season please remember that the Huntington Beach Police Department, together with other Police Agencies, Sheriff, CHP and the Avoid the 38 DUI Taskforce, will be working during the holiday season from December 16, 2011, to January 2, 2012, to arrest anyone caught driving drunk behind the wheel. As part of Departments commitment to the traffic safety campaign, the Huntington Beach PD is conducting a DUI/Drivers License Checkpoint this Friday, December 30, 2011 beginning at 9:00 PM.

“RUOK?” is the text message version of the often heard question, “Are you okay to drive?” If you have to ask someone this question, you already know the answer. If you know they have had too much to drink or they are showing signs of being “buzzed,” then you know that they are not okay to drive. Asking the question doesn’t relieve you of the responsibility. Call them a cab, take them home yourself, or offer your couch.

DUI/ Driver’s License Checkpoints, Multi Agency DUI Task Force deployments and roving DUI patrols are scheduled locally in partnership with law enforcement statewide and around the country during the final weekend of the Winter Holiday Anti-DUI Campaign. DUI Checkpoints are placed in locations that have the greatest opportunity for achieving drunk and drugged driving deterrence. Officers will be contacting drivers passing through the checkpoint for signs of alcohol and/or drug impairment. Grant funded Drug Recognition Experts will be staffing most of the checkpoints.

DUI Checkpoints, along with regularly scheduled high visibility DUI enforcement, are proven strategies with the goal of removing impaired drivers from the road and heightening awareness of the dangers of driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), sobriety checkpoint programs can yield



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

2000 MAIN STREET

CALIFORNIA 92648

P.O. BOX 70

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Tel: (714) 960-8811

Kenneth W. Small
Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE

considerable cost savings: \$6 for every \$1 spent. Huntington Beach PD has 6 additional DUI Checkpoints and operations scheduled throughout the course of 2012.

In December 2009, there were 753 people killed nationwide in crashes that involved drivers or motorcycle riders with blood alcohol concentrations of .08 Blood Alcohol Content. 57 individuals died on California's streets and highways.

The message is simple, ***Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over***. Drinking alcohol and driving do not mix. If you plan to consume alcohol, you should not plan to get behind the wheel of a vehicle or ride a motorcycle.

Huntington Beach PD recommends these simple tips for a safe holiday season:

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin
- Before drinking, designate a sober driver and leave your car keys at home
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation
- Use your community's sober ride program
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to contact your local law enforcement, Call 911
- Remember, "RUOK?" is a ridiculous question. If you think they've had too much to drink, help him or her make other arrangements to get home safely.

The national ***Driver Sober or Get Pulled Over*** crackdown is led by the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) and NHTSA, with the California Avoid DUI Task Force Campaign combining high-visibility enforcement and heightened public awareness through publicity.

For statewide and local Avoid DUI Task Force Campaign Enforcement Schedules for the county and Daily DUI Arrest/Fatal Stats for the county and region, visit www.californiaavoid.org. The Program is funded by the California Office of Traffic Safety who reminds everyone to please Report Drunk Drivers – Call 9-1-1!



###