



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

Release Date: October 22nd, 2013 **Time:** 5:00 PM **Prepared by:** Sergeant D. Dereszynski

Type of Incident: Sobriety and Driver's License Checkpoint

Location: City of Huntington Beach

Date/Time of Occurrence: October 26th, 2013 @ 7:00 PM

Details:

Sobriety/Drivers License Checkpoint planned this weekend

The Huntington Beach Police Department's Traffic Unit will be conducting a Sobriety/Drivers License Checkpoint on Saturday, October 26th, 2013 starting at 7:00 PM. 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 holiday season.

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

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), from 2007-2011, 52 percent of all national fatalities occurring on Halloween night involved a drunk driver. During last year's Halloween night, Huntington Beach had eight traffic collisions between October 31st and November 1st. Our statistics are consistent with the national average as 50% of our collisions last year were alcohol related, resulting in two injuries and one fatality. Citizens will undoubtedly be attending Halloween gatherings this weekend and there will likely be alcohol present. We challenge drivers to be responsible if they drink alcohol and urge them not to drive.

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!