



Huntington Beach Police Department

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Robert Handy, Chief of Police

MEDIA ADVISORY

Sergeant D. Dereszynski, Traffic Unit

Release Date/Time: September 17th, 2014 at 8:00 AM

Subject: Sobriety/Drivers License Checkpoint this Saturday, September 20th

Case Number: N/A

Details:

The Huntington Beach Police Department's Traffic Unit will be conducting a Sobriety/Drivers License Checkpoint this Saturday night, September 20th, 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 start the school year and head towards the 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, 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.

This checkpoint will be the last of 10 checkpoints under our current SafeTREC Grant. Our next grant will begin on October 1, 2014. Since October of 2013, we have seen over 15,900 motorists come through our checkpoints and have screened over 8300 drivers for DUI and valid drivers licenses. As a result, we have administered 66 Field Sobriety Tests, made 25 DUI arrests, and issued 87 citations to drivers with expired, suspended, revoked, or no license. These efforts have undoubtedly saved lives by removing these dangerous or unlicensed drivers off our roadways. While these checkpoints were in Huntington Beach, many of the motorists passing through will have traveled through several cities on their way to their final destinations. As we work towards our goal of "zero" alcohol involved collisions, we will continue to use checkpoints and other educational efforts to achieve this objective. Help us to reach our goal by doing your part to be responsible, plan ahead, and take action when you see a suspected drunk driver. We are only a phone call away. 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!