



# CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## ***PRESS RELEASE***

**Release Date:** December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 **Time:** 2:30 PM **Prepared by:** Sergeant D. Dereszynski

**Type of Incident:** Office of Traffic Safety 2013-2014 SafeTREC Grant Kick-Off

**Location:** City of Huntington Beach

**Date/Time of Occurrence:** Now through September 30<sup>th</sup> 2014

### **Details:**

### **HUNTINGTON BEACH POLICE TO COMBAT ROADWAY DEATHS AND INJURIES WITH DUI CHECKPOINTS**

The Huntington Beach Police Department has been awarded a new traffic safety grant for an anti-DUI program aimed at preventing deaths and injuries on Huntington Beach roadways. Enforcement measures to combat impaired driving are coming as a result of a recent \$95,000.00 grant awarded by the California Office of Traffic Safety to Huntington Beach. The Huntington Beach Police Department is dedicated to keeping our streets 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 alcohol related collisions and to ensure drivers are properly licensed.

The special DUI Checkpoint grant is to assist in efforts to reduce the number of persons killed and injured in alcohol and other drug related collisions in the community. The grant activities will specifically target impaired driving offenders as well as educating the public on the dangers of impaired driving through the use of DUI/driver's license checkpoints. When possible, specially trained officers will be available to evaluate those suspected of drug-impaired driving.

Drunk and drugged driving are among America's deadliest crimes. In 2011, a modern day low of 774 people were killed and over 24,000 injured in alcohol and drug-impaired crashes in California. Since January of 2012, Huntington Beach has experienced 669 alcohol related collisions. This resulted in 398 people being injured and seven people killed in these tragic crashes. Crashes involving alcohol have been shown to drop by up to 20 percent when well-publicized checkpoints are conducted often enough. Checkpoints have proven to be the most effective of any of the DUI enforcement strategies, while yielding considerable cost savings of \$6 for every \$1 spent and are supported by nearly 90 percent of California drivers.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.