



# CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## ***PRESS RELEASE***

**Release Date:** January 9th, 2014      **Time:** 6:17 PM      **Prepared by:** Sergeant D. Dereszynski

**Type of Incident:** Sobriety and Driver's License Checkpoint

**Location:** City of Huntington Beach

**Date/Time of Occurrence:** January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 7:00 PM to 3:00 AM

### **Details:**

#### **Sobriety/Drivers License Checkpoint planned this weekend**

The Huntington Beach Police Department's Traffic Unit will be conducting a Sobriety/Drivers License Checkpoint this Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 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 New Year.

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 and injury free 2014. This will take the cooperation of all motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, and onlookers to spot DUI drivers before they make the poor decision to drive. A preliminary review of alcohol involved incidents from 2013 identified some significant concerns. We finished the year off with a total of 725 DUI arrests city wide. Our youngest DUI arrest was 17 years old with the oldest at 81. Females accounted for about 33% of the total arrests, meaning there were twice as many males arrested than females. The highest Breath Alcohol Content (BrAC) recorded was .39% (over four times the legal limit) with a majority near .16% BrAC (twice the legal limit). According to an article by the Centers for Disease Control, "An average drunk driver has driven drunk 80 times before first arrest". Every day we strive to catch, stop, and prosecute those drunk drivers well before their first arrest. Keep your eyes open as sometimes the slightest improper driving action may be a clue that someone is under the influence of alcohol, medications, or drugs. 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!