



# CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## ***PRESS RELEASE***

**Release Date:** November 20th, 2013      **Time:** 4:30 PM      **Prepared by:** Sergeant D. Dereszynski

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

**Location:** City of Huntington Beach

**Date/Time of Occurrence:** November 23rd, 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, November 23rd, 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 family 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.

The Huntington Beach Police would like every motorist to enjoy the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday period. This is a time when family and friends often travel great distances to spend time with loved ones. With vehicle travel being the most economical way to travel during this time, the roadways will see more congestion, distracted drivers, collisions, and impaired drivers. The past three years have shown an average of 80 collisions during the 11 day period surrounding Thanksgiving. About 60% of the collisions resulted in injuries to the drivers or passengers. Last year, almost 17% of the collisions during the 11 day period were alcohol related. While Thanksgiving is a time to celebrate togetherness, people need to be responsible and lookout for other motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists who wish to make it to their final destinations safe and uninjured. Following Thanksgiving Day is "Black Friday" when many people will start their Christmas shopping, further causing a spike in vehicular traffic. Now is a time to slow down, process your surroundings, and drive safely. Our intent for this checkpoint is to educate and deter motorists from driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or medications during this holiday period.

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!