



# OCEANSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE



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## **POLICE RECEIVE ADDITIONAL DUI GRANT**

The Oceanside Police Department Traffic Services Unit has received a grant from the state to combat drivers operating vehicles while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

The police department applied and received An additional grant through the State of California Office of Traffic Safety. The program will begin in October of 2009. The DUI Enforcement and Awareness Programs are put into place to reduce the number of persons injured or killed in alcohol related crashes. The funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The grant will pay for the personnel expenses associated with DUI/Driver's License Checkpoints, DUI Saturation Patrols, as well as target repeat offenders with suspended or revoked driver's licenses. These practices are designed to attract attention to the seriousness of driving under the influence and serve as a deterrent to drivers.

Each year thousands of motorists die from alcohol related crashes. In 2006, 1509 persons died in alcohol related collisions in the State of California alone. Each year in California there are approximately 200,000 arrests for DUI. There has been a 50% decrease in the number of DUI deaths and injuries in California since the enactment of the .08 law in 1990.

A few important facts about DUI;

- If you are driving under the influence with a child in the car you can be charged with "child endangerment" which is a felony.
- It is illegal to have an open container of alcohol in the car, or to drink in a car even if you are parked.
- Your penalty will be increased by 60 additional days in jail if while driving under the influence you were also driving recklessly or at a high rate of speed.
- Time is the only thing that will allow the body to metabolize the alcohol and allow the drinker to become unimpaired.

You don't have to feel drunk to be dangerous while behind the wheel. Your ability to react quickly decreases with the first drink. Don't drive after drinking or using other drugs (legal or illegal) This is the safest message of all and the only way to be sure that you are not under the influence. If you are going to drink, always use a Designated Driver.

The police department will be planning and executing enforcement efforts throughout the city that will coincide with dates, times and locations usually associated with DUI accidents. If you observe a motorist that you believe is driving under the influence, dial 911.

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