



# ***PRESS RELEASE***

---

Riverside Police Department • 8181 Lincoln Avenue • Riverside, CA 92504  
Phone (951) 351-6046 • Fax (951) 826-8730

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Thursday November 10, 2011

**CONTACT:**

Sergeant Skip Showalter  
(951) 351-6046

[sshowalter@riversideca.gov](mailto:sshowalter@riversideca.gov)

## **Riverside Police Department Continues Traffic Safety Program to Combat DUI Deaths and Injuries**

Riverside, CA – The Riverside Police Department has been awarded a new traffic safety grant for a year-long anti-DUI program aimed at preventing deaths and injuries on our roadways. The \$178,280 grant awarded by the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to Riverside will aid in the city's ongoing effort to improve traffic safety and the quality of life.

"The Riverside Police Department has made enforcement of California's DUI laws a high priority. This grant provides additional resources for our Police Department to continue our energetic enforcement efforts against drunk driving," said Chief Sergio G. Diaz.

This DUI Enforcement and Awareness grant also provides drug impairment training to detect and help combat the increasing problem of drivers under the influence of legal and illegal substances. This training will provide on-the-spot assessment of drivers suspected of drug impairment.

Grant funding also allows for roving DUI saturation patrols and checkpoints, warrant searches and stakeouts for repeat DUI offenders, and court stings targeting DUI offenders with suspended or revoked driver licenses who drive after leaving court hearings or court mandated DUI school. Drunk driving is one of America's deadliest crimes. In 2009, 950 people throughout California died in roadway crashes that involved a driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 percent or higher.

"Thanks to the dedicated hard work of agencies like the Riverside Police Department, California has seen a drop of nearly 27 percent in DUI fatalities," said OTS Director Christopher J. Murphy. "While this is good news, we know that only by keeping the pressure on through enforcement and public awareness can we hope to sustain these declines and save lives."

For a third year in a row, we will also be conducting four special motorcycle safety enforcement operations. Motorcycle fatalities have finally dropped in California, following a decade long rise in deaths. In 2010, 353 motorcyclists were killed, a 37 percent drop from the all-time high for California in 2008.

Riverside Police Officers will be conducting specialized enforcement efforts the next twelve months. Extra officers will be on duty patrolling areas and events where motorcycle crashes and incidents have occurred. Officers will be cracking down on traffic violations made by regular vehicle drivers and motorcyclists that result in far too many motorcycle collisions, injuries and deaths.

"We are on the right path with declining fatalities," said Murphy. "We have to stick to that path so that someday we can reach the vision we all share – *Toward Zero Deaths, Every 1 Counts.*"

Funding for this program is from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

###