



# ***PRESS RELEASE***

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**RIVERSIDE POLICE TO COMBAT DUI DEATHS AND INJURIES  
THROUGH TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAM**

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. Additional enforcement measures in place to combat impaired driving are coming as a result of a recent \$222,028.00 grant awarded by the California Office of Traffic Safety to Riverside. The Riverside Police Department is dedicated to keeping our streets safe through both enforcement and education.

“The Riverside Police Department is committed to making our streets and roadways safer. Energetic and effective enforcement of our state’s laws regarding drunk driving is a proven way to prevent needless death and injury. We are proud to participate with the California Office of Traffic Safety to help save lives,” said Chief Diaz.

The special DUI Enforcement and Awareness 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 educate the public on the dangers of impaired driving. This will be done through the use of DUI/driver’s license checkpoints, warrant searches, stakeouts for repeat DUI offenders, and saturation patrols.

Drunk driving is one of America’s deadliest crimes. In 2009, over 10,839 people died in highway crashes involving a driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher. California data for 2009, shows that 950 people died in Alcohol Impaired Collisions, a 7.6 percent reduction in deaths from 2008.

“Everyone in California should be heartened with these figures,” said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS). “But as encouraging as this is, we can’t let up on the efforts to promote and enforce traffic safety. Far too many are still losing their lives or being severely injured on our roadways.”

For a second year in a row the grant will fund 4 special Motorcycle Safety Enforcement Operations. Motorcycle fatalities have finally turned and dropped in California, following an 11 year, 175 percent rise in deaths. In 2009, 393

motorcyclist were killed, a 29 percent drop from 2008 statistics. Sadly, California remains one of 3 states that still lead the nation in motorcyclist's deaths.

Riverside Police Officers will be conducting specialized enforcement efforts throughout the course of the next year. Extra officers will be on duty patrolling areas frequented by motorcycles. Officers will be cracking down on traffic violations made by motorcyclists, and other vehicle drivers, that result in far too many motorcycle collisions, injuries and deaths.

"These figures represent more people making it home safely and alive each day," said Murphy. "But to keep this trend going, we will continue to strive to meet our vision – *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.

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