



PRESS RELEASE

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Riverside Police Department Targets Cinco de Mayo Impaired Drivers with Checkpoint

Cinco de Mayo revelers will need a designated sober driver to stay safe and to avoid breaking the law this year. The Riverside Police Department will be conducting a DUI/Drivers License checkpoint on Tuesday, May 5, 2009, from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., in an effort to reduce the number of persons killed and injured in alcohol involved collisions. DUI checkpoints are conducted to identify offenders and get them off the street, as well as educate the public on the dangers of impaired driving.

This year, the City of Riverside has experienced one fatal collision as a result of DUI driving; there were eleven in 2008. This DUI/Drivers License checkpoint will be conducted as an effort to reduce those tragic incidents that result in a loss of life due to a DUI driver. Additionally, officers will be checking that drivers possess a valid driver's license.

A DUI checkpoint is a visible and effective method for raising awareness and reducing the incidence of drinking then driving. By publicizing these enforcement and education efforts, the Riverside Police Department believes motorists could be deterred from drinking and driving and encourages sober designated drivers.

Traffic volume and weather permitting, all vehicles at the chosen location may be checked. Drivers who are under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs will be arrested. Our objective is to send a clear message to those who are considering driving a motor vehicle after consuming alcohol and/or drugs – *Drunk Driving, Over the Limit, Under Arrest.*

Funding for this operation is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The program allows for special enforcement around holidays and celebration periods like the upcoming Cinco de Mayo, Memorial Day and July 4th. The public is encouraged to help keep roadways safe by calling 911 if they see a suspected impaired driver.

MEDIA NOTE: *Reporters are invited to join the checkpoint by contacting Sergeant Dwayne May, Riverside Police Traffic Division, at (951) 353-7991 or via email at dmay@riversideca.gov.*

