



County of Sacramento

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 10, 2010

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NEWS RELEASE

TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT TO PREVENT DUI DEATHS AND INJURIES

Probation Department targets high-risk habitual offenders

Sacramento County Probation 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 to combat impaired driving are coming as a result of a recent \$276,000 grant awarded by the California Office of Traffic Safety to Sacramento County.

"Driving under the influence is a serious crime that often results in injury and death. The OTS grant will allow us to target the worst of the worst habitual DUI offenders by providing intensive Probation supervision including frequent face-to-face contacts and home searches," said Don Meyer, Chief Probation Officer. "Active probation supervision is a proven strategy for preventing further crimes from high-risk offenders like these."

The Intensive Probation Supervision for High-Risk Felony and Repeat DUI Offenders grant will help reduce the number of persons killed and injured in alcohol and other drug related collisions in the community. The grant will focus on monitoring individuals on probation for felony DUI and multiple misdemeanor DUI convictions. Supervision for high-risk DUI offenders will include unannounced home searches, random alcohol and drug testing and monitoring to ensure compliance with court-ordered DUI education and treatment programs.

The Sacramento County Probation Department will also collaborate with other local law enforcement agencies to conduct DUI/Driver license checkpoints, surveillance and apprehension of offenders who drive without a license and warrant service operations targeting individuals who fail to make court appearances after DUI arrests.

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 reduction of 7.6% from 2008.

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“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.”

“These figures represent more people making it home safely and alive each day,” Murphy added. “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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Visit the Sacramento County Probation Department online at www.probation.saccounty.net.