



PACIFICA POLICE DEPARTMENT
2075 Coast Highway • Pacifica, CA 94044
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PRESS RELEASE

December 24, 2013

DUI/Driver License Checkpoint Planned this Weekend

The Pacifica Police Department will be conducting a DUI/Driver License Checkpoint on December 27, 2013, at an undisclosed location within the city limits between the hours of 7:00 PM and 1:00 AM.

The deterrent effect of DUI checkpoints is a proven resource in reducing the number of persons killed and injured in alcohol or drug involved crashes. Research shows that crashes involving an impaired driver can be reduced by up to 20 percent when well-publicized DUI checkpoints and proactive DUI patrols are conducted routinely.

In California, this deadly crime led to 802 deaths in 2012 because someone failed to designate a sober driver. Nationally, the latest data shows nearly 10,000 were killed by an impaired driver. According to the most recent collision rankings provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), Pacifica ranks 38th out of 93 similar sized cities in California for the highest number of alcohol involved collisions.

Officers will be looking for signs of alcohol and/or drug impairment with officers checking drivers for proper licensing, delaying motorists only momentarily. When possible, specially trained officers will be available to evaluate those suspected of drug-impaired driving. Recent statistics reveal that 30 percent of drivers in fatal crashes had one or more drugs in their systems. A study of active drivers showed more tested positive for drugs that may impair driving (14 percent) than did for alcohol (7.3 percent). Of the drugs, marijuana was most prevalent, at 7.4 percent, slightly more than alcohol.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), checkpoints have provided the most effective documented results of any of the DUI enforcement strategies, while also yielding considerable cost savings of \$6 for every \$1 spent. Nearly 90 percent of California drivers approve of DUI checkpoints.

DUI Checkpoints are placed in locations based on collision statistics and frequency of DUI arrests, affording the greatest opportunity for achieving drunk and drugged driving deterrence. Locations are chosen with safety considerations for the officers and the public.

Drivers caught driving impaired can expect the impact of a DUI arrest to include jail time, fines, fees, DUI classes, other expenses that can exceed \$10,000, not to mention the embarrassment suffered when friends and family find out.

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Funding for this checkpoint is provided to the Pacifica Police Department by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

We remind everyone to 'Report Drunk Driver – Call 9-1-1'.

James Tasa
Chief of Police

By: Captain Daniel Steidle

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