THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BEACH ENFORCEMENT DURING MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

(San Diego) San Diego Police Department Northern and Western Division officers, the Beach Team (Northern and Western Divisions), the Harbor Unit, the Mounted Enforcement Unit, motor officers, the Gang Suppression Team, Retired Senior Volunteers and Special Event Traffic Controllers will patrol La Jolla, Mission, Ocean and Pacific Beaches during the Memorial Day holiday. Officers will use patrol cars, all-terrain vehicles, bicycles, horses and boats to ensure the safety of all visitors. We expect more than 500,000 people will visit San Diego's beaches during the three-day weekend.

In addition to beach enforcement, officers will conduct DUI saturation patrols in the beach areas and they will also enforce "Click It or Ticket."

Visitors and residents should be aware that this is the first Memorial Day holiday under the new one-year trial alcohol ban. The ban was passed January 14, 2008 and officers began enforcing it on February 14, 2008. The ban prohibits the consumption of alcoholic beverages on San Diego's beaches and in most public parks. The new law, which also applies to possessing an open alcoholic beverage container, bans drinking at San Diego beaches from Point Loma to the Del Mar City limits. The banned areas include: La Jolla Cove, (other La Jolla beaches already prohibit alcohol) Pacific Beach, Mission Beach and Ocean Beach as well as Mission Bay Park. The ban incorporates public areas including the sand, seawall, sidewalk, boardwalk, parking lots, parks, piers, jetties and public rights-of-way. For a detailed list of beaches and parks where alcohol is and is not permitted, see San Diego Municipal Code Section 56.54 by visiting www.sandiego.gov/city-clerk.

Beach and park signage have been updated to reflect the new law. San Diego police officers, lifeguards and park rangers will issue citations for alcohol offenses committed during the Memorial Day holiday. The maximum fine for a first offense is $250.00. Repeat offenders could face a maximum fine of $1000 and up to six months in jail.

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