



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

01/28/2012

CONTACT:

Officer Mark McCullough
(619) 818-4860
mmccullough@pd.sandiego.gov

Downtown San Diego DUI Checkpoint Nets Twelve Arrests

On January 27, 2012 the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) conducted a DUI checkpoint in the 1500 block of First Avenue in the Downtown San Diego community. The checkpoint was made possible by a UC Berkeley "DUI Mini Grant."

On January 27, 2012, Traffic Division held a DUI Checkpoint in the 1500 block of First Avenue in Downtown San Diego. The checkpoint was operational from 2217 to 0303 hours. 1901 vehicles passed through the checkpoint. 1213 of the vehicles were contacted by officers. 22 motorists were detained for a further evaluation of their sobriety. Twelve arrests were made for DUI, and eleven vehicle impounds were conducted at the checkpoint. Two additional vehicles were impounded for violations that occurred adjacent to the checkpoint, and one citation was issued for a driver operating on a suspended license.

"The message is simple, *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*. Drinking alcohol and driving do not mix. If you plan to consume alcohol, you should also plan not to get behind the wheel of a vehicle or ride a motorcycle," said Officer Mark McCullough.

Officer McCullough recommends these simple tips:

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin;
- Before drinking, designate a sober driver and leave your car keys at home;
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation;
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to contact your local law enforcement - Call 911; and

- remember, "RUOK?" is a ridiculous question. If you think they've had too much to drink, they probably have. Help him or her make other arrangements to get home safely.



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The national ***Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*** crackdown is led by the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) and NHTSA, with the California Avoid DUI Task Force Campaign, combining high-visibility enforcement and heightened public awareness through publicity.

For statewide and local Avoid DUI Task Force Campaign Enforcement Schedules for the county and Daily DUI Arrest/Fatal Stats for the county and region, visit www.californiaavoid.org. The Program is funded by the California Office of Traffic Safety which reminds everyone to please – Report Drunk Drivers – Call 9-1-1!

Media Notes: To schedule an interview regarding Anti Drunk-Driving efforts, or request a ride-along with law enforcement during the holiday period, please contact Officer Mark McCullough at (619) 818-4860 or via email at mmccullough@pd.sandiego.gov.

