



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

03/18/2012

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### **Downtown DUI Checkpoint & Pacific Beach DUI Patrol Net Nine Arrests**

On March 17, 2012 the San Diego Police Department conducted a DUI checkpoint in the 1500 block of First Avenue in Downtown San Diego. The checkpoint was made possible by a UC Berkeley "DUI Mini Grant."

The checkpoint was operational from 2215 to 0145 hours. 1922 vehicles passed through the checkpoint. 950 of those vehicles were screened by officers. Ten of those drivers were detained for a further evaluation of their sobriety. Three arrests were made for DUI in the checkpoint, and four vehicle impounds were conducted. One citation was also issued to a driver for having an open container of alcohol in his vehicle. Six additional arrests were made for DUI during saturation patrols in the Pacific Beach area. One of those drivers was booked for felony DUI when he struck a guardrail and his passenger sustained a broken ankle.

"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](http://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](mailto:mmccullough@pd.sandiego.gov).

