



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: 12/17/14

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DUI/Drivers License Checkpoints Planned this Weekend

San Diego CA — This time of year, with all the holiday parties and festive occasions, many partygoers will be drinking. If you're celebrating with alcohol this holiday season, The San Diego Police Department has a message for you: *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*. Due to the increase in drunk-driving-related fatalities around the holidays each year, law enforcement agencies across the country will be out in force December 12-January 1, 2015 actively searching for drunk drivers.

The San Diego Police Department Traffic Unit will be conducting a DUI/Drivers License Checkpoint on Friday December 19 2014, and again on Saturday December 20th 2014 at undisclosed locations within the city limits between the hours of 11:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.

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. "Over the course of the past three years, DUI collisions have claimed 14 lives and resulted in 2271 injury crashes harming 2254 of our friends and neighbors," said Officer Mark McCullough.

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.

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 when friends and family find out.

Funding for this checkpoint is provided to San Diego Police Department by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, reminding everyone to 'Report Drunk Driver – Call 9-1-1'.