



Avoid the 11 Solano County DUI Taskforce

PRESS RELEASE

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THE VALLEJO POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES GRANT FOR COUNTY-WIDE DUI ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGN

Drunk and drugged driving remains the number one killer on our roadways, with nearly 800 deaths and over 24,000 injuries. The “Avoid the 11” DUI Task Force will be attacking this problem head on through DUI enforcement efforts in Solano County as a result of a recent \$220,000 grant awarded by the California Office of Traffic Safety to the Vallejo Police Department. The Vallejo Police Department will administer the grant for the entire county.

The Solano County DUI Task Force is pleased to announce the addition of the Cal-Maritime Police Department, increasing the participating agencies from 10 to the current 11 agencies.

The “Avoid the 11” DUI Task Force is named to send the message that if you don’t drink or use drugs and drive, you will *avoid* getting arrested by any of the 11 participating law enforcement agencies in the county.

The grant activities will specifically target those who get behind the wheel after drinking too much or using drugs that impair driving. Officers will be staffing DUI/Driver License Checkpoints, multi-agency DUI Task Force deployments, and local DUI saturation patrols for each partnering. Additionally, funding will target the ‘worst of the worst’ repeat DUI offenders with Warrant/Probation Sweeps and Court Sting Enforcement Operations focusing on DUI offenders who leave court hearings and drive away on suspended licenses after being ordered not to drive by a judge.

“The Avoid DUI Task Forces have been an essential part of the phenomenal reduction in DUI deaths that we witnessed from 2006 to 2010 in California,” said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the Office of Traffic Safety. “But since the tragedy of DUI accounts for nearly one third of traffic fatalities, Solano County needs the high visibility enforcement and public awareness that this grant will provide.”

A large part of grant funding will go to DUI/Drivers License Checkpoints – highly visible, highly publicized events not only meant to make arrests, but to deter impaired driving in the first place. Crashes involving alcohol drop by an average of 20 percent when well-publicized checkpoints are conducted often enough. 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 yielding considerable cost savings of \$6 for every \$1 spent.

Motorists can expect to see special DUI campaigns during the winter and summer holiday periods as well as on Halloween, Super Bowl Sunday, St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo and during local special events with identified DUI Problems. Funding for the grant comes from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Agencies participating in the 'Avoid the 11' taskforce include: Benicia Police Department, California Highway Patrol, Cal-Maritime Police Department, Dixon Police Department, Fairfield Police Department, Rio Vista Police Department, Suisun police Department, Solano County Sherriff's Department, Solano Community College Police Department, Vacaville Police Department and Vallejo Police Department.



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