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PRESS RELEASE

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REDONDO BEACH POLICE TO COMBAT DUI DEATHS AND INJURIES THROUGH TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAM

The Redondo Beach Police Department has been awarded a new traffic safety grant for a year-long anti-DUI program aimed at preventing deaths and injuries on our roadways. Additional enforcement measures in place to combat impaired driving are coming as a result of a recent \$96,000.00 grant awarded by the California Office of Traffic Safety to Redondo Beach. The Redondo Beach Police Department is dedicated to keeping our streets safe through both enforcement and education.

“Do not drink and drive,” said Chief Joe Leonardi. “If you know that you will be drinking alcoholic beverages, make plans for a designated driver or public transportation. Your planning will prevent injury, death or serious financial burdens to you, your family and others. If you are in a collision or if you are arrested, it will cost you thousands of dollars and affect your life for many years.”

The special DUI Enforcement and Awareness grant is to assist in efforts to reduce the number of persons killed and injured in alcohol and other drug related collisions in the community. The grant activities will specifically target impaired driving offenders as well as educate the public on the dangers of impaired driving. This will be done through the use of DUI/driver’s license checkpoints, and warrant searches for repeat DUI offenders, and saturation patrols.

Drunk driving is one of America’s deadliest crimes. In 2009, over 10,839 people died in highway crashes involving a driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher. California data for 2009 shows that 950 died in Alcohol Impaired Collisions, a 7.6 percent reduction in deaths from 2008.

“Everyone in California should be heartened with these figures,” said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS). “But as encouraging as this is, we can’t let up on the efforts to promote and enforce traffic safety. Far too many are still losing their lives or being severely injured on our roadways.”

“These figures represent more people making it home safely and alive each day,” said Murphy. “But to keep this trend going, we will continue to strive to meet our vision – *Toward zero deaths, every 1 counts.*”

Funding for this program is from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.