



HAWTHORNE POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

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Suitable For Public Dissemination

DUI/Drivers License checkpoint Planned for May 27th, 2011

Hawthorne, CA – Hawthorne Police Department's Traffic Unit will be conducting a DUI/Drivers License checkpoint on May 27th, 2011, at Crenshaw Blvd. and Rocket Road, between the hours of 8:00 P.M. and 4:00 A.M. DUI checkpoints are a proven enforcement tool effective in reducing the number of persons killed and injured in alcohol involved crashes, as well as being a valuable means for heightening awareness of the dangers of impaired driving.

Officers will be checking drivers through the checkpoint for signs of alcohol and or drug impairments. Officers will check for proper licensing and will strive to impact motorists only momentarily. If officers suspect that a driver has been drinking or is impaired, they will conduct a field sobriety test. If you fail, expect jail, vehicle storage fees, license suspension, insurance rate increases, along with fines, fees, DUI classes, and other expenses that can exceed \$10,000.

Statewide, overall traffic deaths declined by 23 percent, from 3,995 in 2007, to 3,081 in 2009. Total traffic fatalities are at their lowest levels in six decades, when the federal government began compiling figures. According to federal statistics, DUI deaths declined by 16 percent (from 1,132 in 2007, to 950 in 2009). Alcohol impaired deaths still make up the largest category of overall vehicle fatalities in 2009, with 31 percent of all deaths caused by a drunk or impaired driver.

"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 encourage and support traffic safety. You can help make your community safe; if you see a Drunk Driver – Call 9-1-1."

Funding for this and other DUI checkpoints are provided to Hawthorne Police Department by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, targeting those who still don't heed the message to designate a sober driver.

Lieutenant Gary Tomatani / Public Information Officer
Front Desk: 310-349-2700 Investigations: 310-349-2820

12501 S. Hawthorne Boulevard
Hawthorne, CA 90250

MEDIA NOTES: To schedule an interview regarding impaired driving efforts and programs in California please contact Chris Cochran, California Office of Traffic Safety at (916) 905-3063 or via email at ccochran@ots.ca.gov.