



# HAWTHORNE POLICE DEPARTMENT

12501 South Hawthorne Boulevard, Hawthorne, California, 90250

## PRESS RELEASE

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Suitable For Public Dissemination

### ***DUI/Drivers License checkpoint Planned for July 23rd, 2011***

Hawthorne, CA – Hawthorne Police Department's Traffic Bureau will be conducting a DUI/Drivers License checkpoint on July 23rd, 2011 on Crenshaw Blvd., south of El Segundo Blvd., 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, 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. DUI deaths declined by 16 percent, from 1,132 in 2007 to 950 in 2009, according to federal statistics. 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.

**MEDIA NOTES:** To schedule an interview regarding the Hawthorne Traffic Safety Operations, please contact **Lt. Gary Tomatani** or via email at [gtomatani@cityofhawthorne.org](mailto:gtomatani@cityofhawthorne.org). 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](mailto:ccochran@ots.ca.gov).

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