



Avoid the 12 Stanislaus County DUI Taskforce



PRESS RELEASE

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CERES 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 12" DUI Task Force will be attacking this problem head on through DUI enforcement efforts in Stanislaus County as a result of a recent \$160,000 grant awarded by the California Office of Traffic Safety to the Ceres Police Department. Ceres Police Department will administer the grant for the entire county.

As stated by Ceres Police Deputy Chief Michael Borges, "Our agency has always taken an active role when it comes to participating in Avoid the 12 enforcement activities. DUI enforcement is one of the top enforcement priorities for Ceres Police. On November 9th, 2012 while addressing an Every 15 Minute assembly of Central Valley High School juniors and seniors, a program addressing the perils of "drunk driving," I stressed to the group of how their actions of driving impaired can have long lasting, and expensive consequences."

"You can lose your life, you can lose your freedom, and if neither of these takes place you will certainly be paying for your mistakes in higher insurance cost, no drivers' license, lost job opportunities, and the list goes on. It is your choice. We hope you make the right choice to not drink and drive," said Deputy Chief Borges.

The "Avoid the 12" 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 12 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, Stanislaus 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 12' taskforce include:

Ceres Police, Modesto Police, Turlock Police, Oakdale Police, Stanislaus State Police, Patterson Police Services, Riverbank Police Services, Hughson Police Services, Waterford Police Services, Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department, Stanislaus County Probation, and the California Highway Patrol.



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