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SFPD Receives Grant for County-Wide DUI Enforcemnet Campaign

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Drunk and drugged driving remains the number one killer on our roadways, with 774 deaths and over 24,000 injuries. The “Avoid” DUI Task Force will be combating this deadly problem through DUI enforcement efforts in San Francisco County. San Francisco Police Department will be administering a recent $100,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety for the entire county.

“The ‘Avoid’ 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 participating law enforcement agencies in the county,” says Captain Denise Flaherty, Commanding Officer of the Department’s Traffic Unit.

The grant activities will specifically target those who get behind the wheel after drinking too much or using drugs that impair driving. Officers from law enforcement agencies across the county will jointly staff DUI/Driver License Checkpoints, multi-agency DUI Task Force deployments, and local DUI saturation patrols. 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.

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 have been shown drop by up to 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 and are supported by nearly 90 percent of California drivers.

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' taskforce include:

San Francisco Police Department
San Francisco State Police Department
San Francisco City College Police
University of California San Francisco Police
San Francisco Sheriff's Department

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