

CITY OF CYPRESS POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**CYPRESS POLICE LAUNCH PROGRAM
TO COMBAT DUI DEATHS AND INJURIES**

The Cypress 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. New enforcement measures to combat impaired driving are coming as a result of a recent \$131,260 grant awarded by the California Office of Traffic Safety to the City of Cypress. The Cypress Police Department is dedicated to keeping our streets safe through both enforcement and education.

"We are very excited to once again partner with the Office of Traffic Safety to allow us to aggressively pursue DUI offenders from many angles," said Cypress Police Chief Mark Yokoyama. "In these lean budget times we are very fortunate to have the support of OTS to help us stay on top of this priority agenda of getting DUI drivers off the street."

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. 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, warrant searches and stakeouts for repeat DUI offenders, saturation patrols, and court stings targeting DUI offenders with suspended or revoked driver licenses who get behind the wheel after leaving court.

Drunk driving is one of America's deadliest crimes. In 2008, over 11,700 people died in highway crashes involving a driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher.

"Last year in California 1,029 died in alcohol impaired crashes, a 9 percent reduction in deaths from 2007," said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the Office of Traffic Safety. "This grant will help keep that trend going by getting drunk drivers off the roadways of Cypress, making it safer for everyone."

New this year is the addition of 4 special Motorcycle Safety Enforcement Operations. Motorcycle fatalities have been on the rise in California, increasing 175 percent statewide in the last decade, from 204 killed in 1998 to 560 killed in 2008.

Cypress Police Officers will be conducting specialized enforcement efforts throughout the course of the next year. Extra officers will be on duty patrolling areas frequented by motorcycles. Officers will be cracking down on traffic violations made by motorcyclists, and other vehicle drivers, that result in far too many motorcycle collisions, injuries and deaths.

Funding for the grant comes from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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