



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **The Ventura Police Department is Conducting a DUI Checkpoint on Saturday, December 19, 2020**

**Ventura, Calif.** — The Ventura Police Department Traffic Unit will conduct a DUI checkpoint at an undisclosed location within the city limits on Saturday, December 19, 2020, from 6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

DUI checkpoint locations are chosen based on a history of DUI collision statistics and arrests, with the primary purpose not to make arrests, but to promote public safety by deterring residents from driving impaired.

Research shows that crashes involving an impaired driver can be reduced by up to 20 percent when DUI operations are conducted and publicized routinely. During the checkpoint, officers will look for signs that drivers are under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

The Ventura Police Department reminds the public that impaired driving is not just caused by alcohol. Some prescription medications or over-the-counter drugs may interfere with driving. Always follow directions for use and read warning labels about driving or "operating heavy machinery," which includes driving a car. While medicinal and recreational marijuana are legal, driving under the influence of marijuana is not. Marijuana can be impairing, especially when combined with alcohol or other drugs, which can also result in a DUI.

If you plan on drinking or taking medications that may impact your ability to drive safely, plan on staying safe at home. If you see a drunk driver, always call 9-1-1.

Drivers charged with DUI face an average of \$13,500 in fines and penalties, as well as a suspended license.

As California continues to work to stop the spread of COVID-19, the Ventura Police Department is committed to keeping the community safe and following public health guidelines, wearing masks, and practicing social distancing.

Funding for this checkpoint was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

To learn more about the Office of Traffic Safety grant and VPD's educational efforts, contact Emily Graves, Community Outreach Specialist for the Ventura Police Department, at [egraves@cityofventura.ca.gov](mailto:egraves@cityofventura.ca.gov).