



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Commander Darrick Brunk
dbrunk@cityofventura.ca.gov

*****UPDATED WITH RESULTS*****

Ventura Police Department Encourage Residents to be Responsible and Drive Sober *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*

Ventura, Calif. — During this time of busy summer travel, the Ventura Police Department asks drivers to find a safe ride home, especially after drinking to using drugs that impact driving abilities.

On Friday, August 20, 2021, from 7:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m., the Ventura Police Department Traffic Unit will conduct a DUI checkpoint at an undisclosed location within city limits. Furthermore, additional officers will be on patrol from August 20, 2021, through September 6, 2021, looking for drivers suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

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

“Labor Day Weekend remains one of the most dangerous times of year for alcohol-involved traffic collisions,” said Traffic Unit Sergeant, Michael Brown. “We urge everyone to be as safe as possible, especially while on the road.”

Whether it is alcohol, prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, or marijuana, driving while impaired is illegal.

If you plan on drinking or taking medications that may impact your ability to drive safely, do not get behind the wheel; plan on staying home. Drivers caught driving impaired and charged with a first-time DUI face an average of \$13,500 in fines and penalties, as well as a suspended license.

Funding for this checkpoint and enhanced DUI enforcement is 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, visit ots.ca.gov or contact Emily Graves, Community Outreach Specialist with the Ventura Police Department, at egraves@cityofventura.ca.gov.

UPDATE WITH RESULTS

This checkpoint was established southbound Harbor Blvd. between Schooner Dr. and Spinnaker Dr. The checkpoint began at about 2035 hours and concluded at 0145 hours. 759 cars passed through the checkpoint, while 342 drivers were contacted and screened through the checkpoint. The following is a list of the enforcement activities that took place at, or as a result of the checkpoint:

- 16 SFST's were conducted
- 0 DUI arrests
- 1 arrest for 11350(a) HS / Possession of a controlled substance
- 1 arrest for a DUI related warrant
- 14 misc. citations outside the checkpoint by Motor Officers
- 12 citations issued for 12500(a) VC / Unlicensed Driver at the checkpoint
- 1 citation issued for 14601.2(a) VC / Suspended Driver's License at the checkpoint
- 1 vehicle was towed from the checkpoint

The Ventura Police Department would like to remind the public of the dangers of DUI driving and encourage everyone to drink responsibly or utilize ride sharing and other alternative methods of transportation if you plan on drinking.

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