



Oakland Police Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oakland Police Department to Conduct Sobriety Checkpoints

Checkpoints to Address Reckless Driving, Unlicensed Operation & Driving Under The Influence

Oakland, CA- Made possible by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, the Oakland Police Department Traffic Section will conduct several sobriety checkpoints, at various locations, throughout the City of Oakland on the dates listed below. The checkpoints will address the on-going and chronic problems associated with reckless driving, unlicensed operation and driving under the influence (DUI). The checkpoints will be from 6:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. on the following dates:

Friday, August 27, 2004,
Saturday, August 28, 2004,
Tuesday, August 31, 2004,
Wednesday, September 1, 2004,
Friday, September 3, 2004 and
Saturday, September 4, 2004.

According to Oakland Police Lieutenant Dave Kozicki, "We know that unlicensed drivers are 11 times more likely to be convicted of DUI, four times more likely to be involved in fatal collisions and six times more likely to be involved in injury collisions than a licensed driver. 33 percent of unlicensed drivers tend to have a criminal record, while 85 percent of unlicensed drivers have used a vehicle during the commission of a crime. We would be derelict in our duties to allow unlicensed drivers to drive away. This is a dedicated effort to improve traffic safety and the quality of life over the Labor Day weekend. "

(more)

On Sunday, August 15, 2004 an innocent 31-year-old woman was killed by an unlicensed driver who failed to stop for a red light and fled the scene. On Monday, August 16, 2004, another unlicensed driver struck a building and died from injuries sustained from the accident. In both cases, the drivers were unlicensed and were fleeing the scene of a criminal act.

By law, anyone caught driving without a license will have his or her vehicle impounded for 30 days.

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