



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Downey, CA, October 22, 2015:**

### **DOWNEY POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES GRANT FOR SPECIAL TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT AND CRASH PREVENTION**

Downey Police Department has been awarded a \$169,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for a year-long program of special enforcements and public awareness efforts to prevent traffic-related deaths and injuries. Downey Police Department will use the funding as part of the City's ongoing commitment to keep our roadways safe and improve the quality of life through both enforcement and education.

Chief Carl Charles related the following regarding the ongoing efforts of the Downey Police Department in this area of enforcement, "Our goal is to reduce the overall number of injury traffic collisions in the City of Downey through a combined effort of increased pedestrian/driver education and awareness, as well as directed enforcement activity that focuses on violations of the California Vehicle Code that are directly attributed to causing these collisions"

After falling dramatically between 2006 and 2010, the number of persons killed and injured in traffic collisions has been slowly rising. Particularly alarming are recent increases in pedestrian and bicycle fatalities, the growing dangers of distracting technologies, and the emergence of drug-impaired driving as a major problem. This grant funding will provide opportunities to combat these and other devastating problems such as drunk driving, speeding, and crashes at intersections.

"Overall, California's roadways are among the safest in the nation," said OTS Director Rhonda Craft. "But to meet future mobility, safety, and accessible transportation objectives, we have to reverse this recent trend in order to reach our common goal – zero deaths on our roadways. The Office of Traffic Safety and the Downey Police Department want to work with everyone to create a culture of traffic safety across Downey and the State."

Activities that the grant will fund include:

- Educational presentations
- DUI checkpoints

- DUI saturation patrols
- Distracted driving enforcement
- Seat belt and child safety seat enforcement
- Bicycle and pedestrian safety enforcement
- Speed, red light, and stop sign enforcement
- Compilation of DUI “Hot Sheets,” identifying worst-of-the-worst DUI offenders
- Specialized DUI and drugged driving training such as Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE), and Drug Recognition Evaluator (DRE)

Funding for this program is from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.