

T O R R A N C E

Press Release

Police Department

TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES GRANT FOR SPECIAL TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT AND CRASH PREVENTION

The Torrance Police Department has been awarded a \$271,000 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. The Torrance 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.

"Our Traffic Division does a very good job of keeping our roadways safe. This grant will enhance our strategic efforts to educate the public while reducing hazardous driving." Torrance Police Chief M. Matsuda.

After falling dramatically between 2006 and 2010, the number of persons killed and injured in traffic collisions saw slight increases in 2011 and 2012. Particularly worrisome are recent increases in pedestrian and motorcycle fatalities and the dangers of distracting technologies. This grant funding will provide opportunities to combat these and other devastating problems such as drunk and drugged driving and speeding.

"California's roadways are still among the safest in the nation," said OTS Director Rhonda Craft. "But to meet future mobility, safety, and sustainability objectives, we must create safer roadways for all users. The Torrance Police Department will be using these and other resources to reach the vision we all share – *Toward zero deaths, every 1 counts.*"

Activities that the grant will fund include:

- Educational presentations
- DUI checkpoints
- DUI saturation patrols
- Distracted driving enforcement
- Seat belt and child safety seat enforcement
- Speed, red light, and stop sign enforcement
- Warrant service operations targeting multiple DUI offenders
- 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.

Lieutenant Mark Underwood
Traffic and Special Events Division Commander
