

# Placerville Police News Release



## For Immediate Release

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## Placerville Police Department Receives Grant For Special Traffic Enforcement and Crash Prevention

### NEWS RELEASE

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### **Placerville, CA** – Placerville Police Receives Office of Traffic Safety Grant for 2016

The Placerville Police Department has been awarded a \$45,000 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 Placerville 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.

"The Placerville Police Department is pleased to receive this grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety for a second year in a row," said Police Chief Scott Heller. "Improper turning, speed, DUI, and distracted driving remain the driving factors to injury collisions within the city."

"With the rise in traffic collisions related to distracted and impaired driving, the Placerville Police Department is focused on increased enforcement and public education. The OTS grant makes it possible to have a proactive response to these issues," said Police Chief Scott Heller. "We will continue to emphasize traffic safety enforcement and education in all areas of our policing efforts to include our Bike Patrol Unit, School Resource Officers and traffic specific operations such as DUI checkpoints."

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 Placerville Police Department want to work with everyone to create a culture of traffic safety across Placerville 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
- 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.

