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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Orange County Sheriff's Department Combats Roadway Deaths and Injuries with DUI Checkpoints

SANTA ANA, CA - (October 18, 2013) – The Orange County Sheriff's Department has been awarded a new traffic safety grant for an anti-DUI program aimed at preventing deaths and injuries on Orange County roadways. Enforcement measures to combat impaired driving are coming as a result of a recent \$32,900 grant awarded by the California Office of Traffic Safety to Orange County. The Sheriff's Department is dedicated to keeping our streets safe through both enforcement and education.

"Nationwide, one drunk driving fatality occurs every 53 minutes," said Sergeant Yvonne Shull of The Orange County Sheriff's Department Traffic Bureau. "The Sheriff's Department is committed to reducing the number of fatal and injury traffic collisions, especially those related to impaired driving throughout the entire county."

This special DUI checkpoint grant will assist in efforts to reduce the number of persons killed and injured in alcohol and other drug-related collisions in the community. The grant activities will specifically target impaired driving offenders as well as educate the public on the dangers of impaired driving. When possible, specially trained officers will be available to evaluate those suspected of drug-impaired driving.

Drunk and drugged driving are among America's deadliest crimes. In 2011, a low of 774 people were killed and over 24,000 injured in alcohol and drug-impaired crashes in California. In 2012, the contract cities served by the Sheriff's Department experienced 7 killed and 161 injured in these tragic crashes. Crashes involving alcohol and/or drugs have been shown to drop by up to 20 percent when well-publicized checkpoints are conducted often enough. Checkpoints have proven to be the most effective of any of the DUI enforcement strategies, while yielding considerable cost savings of \$6 for every \$1 spent and are supported by nearly 90 percent of California drivers.

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

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