



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **Concord Police Department Receives Traffic Education and Enforcement Grant**

The Concord Police Department has been awarded a \$175,000.00 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for a year-long enforcement and public awareness program. The traffic safety program is intended to educate the public on safe roadway habits and deter people from violating traffic laws or practicing other unsafe behaviors that lead to injuries and fatalities.

“The Concord Police Department is dedicated to our citizens and their safety while traveling on our roadways,” says Concord Police Chief Guy Swanger. “Drivers, motorcycle riders, bicyclists and pedestrians all have a responsibility to use the roads in a safe manner. Our Traffic Unit and Patrol officers are going to be out enforcing the traffic laws and trying to reduce dangerous driving habits, including DUI and distracted driving, during this OTS Grant period.”

The grant from OTS will fund various education and enforcement activities for the 2019 federal fiscal year (Oct. 1, 2018 to Sept. 30, 2019):

- DUI checkpoints and saturation patrols to take suspected alcohol/drug-impaired drivers – and those unlicensed or with a revoked/suspended license – off the road.
- Patrols in areas with increased incidents of pedestrian and bike collisions.
- Checking for seat belt and child safety seat compliance.
- Motorcycle safety operations in areas with high rider volume and where higher rate of motorcycle crashes occur.
- Speeding, red light and stop sign and other vehicle code violations enforcement.
- Warrant service operations targeting multiple DUI offenders.
- Compilation of DUI “Hot Sheets” identifying repeat DUI offenders and DUI offenders with active warrants.
- Specialized DUI and drugged driving training to identify and apprehend suspected impaired drivers.
- “Know Your Limit” operations to help educated drivers about the effects of even one drink on their ability to safely operate a vehicle.

In 2016, 3,623 people were killed in crashes across the state, a 7 percent increase from 2015, according to the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#). Particularly alarming is the rise in pedestrian deaths, with 867 pedestrians killed on California roadways in 2016, a nearly 33 percent increase from 2012. Along with the growing dangers of distracting technologies like phones and drug-impaired driving, this grant funding will provide opportunities to combat these dangerous and illegal behaviors.

“Almost all crashes are preventable,” OTS director Rhonda Craft said. “Education and enforcement go hand in hand helping change behaviors that cause devastating crashes.”

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

**END**