

## What could SPD do better?

### Traffic

#### Office of Traffic Safety Grants

In November 2017, The Sacramento Police Department was awarded a \$567,331 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for a year-long program of special enforcement and public awareness efforts to prevent traffic related deaths and injuries. The 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.

After falling to a ten year low in 2010, the number of persons killed on roadways has climbed nearly 17 percent across the state, with 3,429 fatalities in 2015. Particularly alarming is the rise in pedestrian and bicycle fatalities that now comprise nearly 25 percent of all traffic deaths, along with the growing dangers of distracting technologies and the emergence of drug-impaired driving. This grant funding will provide opportunities to combat these and other devastating problems such as speeding and crashes at intersections.

"Unsafe behaviors account for 94 percent of traffic crashes," said OTS Director Rhonda Craft. "This grant emphasizes the two most effective ways to change behaviors – education and enforcement. The Sacramento Police Department, with assistance from the Office of Traffic Safety, will use these tools to help keep Sacramento streets safe."

Activities that the grant will fund include:

- Educational presentations
- DUI checkpoints
- DUI saturation patrols
- Bicycle and pedestrian safety enforcement
- Motorcycle safety enforcement
- Distracted driving enforcement
- Seat belt and child safety seat enforcement
- Speed, red light, and stop sign enforcement
- "Know Your Limit" DUI educational operations

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

#### DUI Checkpoints

The Sacramento Police Department routinely schedules and delivers DUI Checkpoints at various locations in the City. In recent years, California has seen a disturbing increase in drug-impaired driving crashes. The Sacramento Police Department supports the new effort from the Office of Traffic Safety that aims to educate all drivers that "DUI Doesn't Just Mean Booze." Prescription

drugs, particularly when taken in conjunction with driving or operating machinery can result in impaired driving. Marijuana can also be impairing, especially in combination with alcohol or other drugs, and can result in a DUI.

The deterrent effect of High Visibility Enforcement using both DUI checkpoints and DUI Saturation Patrols has proven to lower the number of persons killed and injured in alcohol or drug impaired crashes. Research shows that crashes involving an impaired driver can be reduced by up to 20 percent when well-publicized proactive DUI operations are conducted routinely.

DUI Checkpoints are placed in locations based on collision statistics and frequency of DUI arrests, affording the greatest opportunity for achieving drunk and drugged driving deterrence. Locations are chosen with safety considerations for the officers and the public. In California, alcohol involved collisions led to 1,155 deaths and nearly 24,000 serious injuries in 2014 because someone failed to designate a sober driver.

#### Wait for the Walk Campaign

This is an educational program designed to inform the community about pedestrian safety where officers and volunteers provide safety fliers to pedestrians and direct them to use designated pedestrian crossings. These operations are conducted in areas of high pedestrian volume in an effort to reduce pedestrian-related vehicle collisions.

#### Motorcycle Safety Campaigns

Motorcycle fatalities have been on the rise nationally since 2012. Since January of 2015, motorcyclist deaths and injury collisions in the City of Sacramento have risen each year. Collision data reveals that primary causes of motorcycle-involved crashes include speeding, unsafe turning and impairment due to alcohol and other drugs by both riders and drivers alike.

For this campaign, officers target areas that are frequented by motorcyclists and where motorcycle collisions have occurred. These officers look for violations made by drivers and riders alike that can lead to motorcycle collisions. Officers focus on violations that involve speed, turning movements, cell phone use, and other moving violations that are dangerous to motorcyclists when they share the roadway with motor vehicles. Officers are deployed during morning/evening commute times and during the evening/nighttime for DUI patrols.