



PRESS RELEASE

I. DATE AND TIME OF PRESS RELEASE: **November 18, 2009 9:00 a.m.**

II. TYPE OF INCIDENT/SITUATION/ANNOUNCEMENT:

Livermore Police Commence Special Traffic Enforcement Program

III. FACTUAL INFORMATION:

More traffic enforcement and safer streets are coming to Livermore beginning this month thanks to a recent \$103,750.00 grant awarded by the California Office of Traffic Safety. Increased special traffic enforcement measures are on tap for the Livermore Police Department as law enforcement continues their commitment to keeping our roadways safe through both enforcement and education.

"The safety of our community remains our top priority and that means safer driving conditions for our motoring public", said Lt. Mike Peretti, grant director for this project. "Lives continue to be unnecessarily lost or impacted by improper driving habits and the Livermore Police Department will not tolerate it".

The Vehicle Impound Program (VIP) grant is to assist in efforts to deal with increased traffic safety problems and reduce the number of persons killed and injured in traffic collisions. The grant activities will specifically target DUI Enforcement, suspended or unlicensed drivers and motorcycle safety. This will be done through the implementation of strategies which may include DUI/driver's license checkpoints, special enforcement operations, and educational efforts.

The grant also provides funding for overtime to conduct special enforcement activities.

"Every driver and every motorcyclist must get back to the basics: drive sober, always drive or ride safely, buckle up and we will save lives. It's just that simple," said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the Office of Traffic Safety. "This grant will help make Livermore just that much safer of a place to live and work."

New this year is the addition of special Motorcycle Safety Enforcement Operations. Motorcycle fatalities have been on the rise in California, increasing 175 percent statewide in the last decade, from 204 killed in 1998 to 560 killed in 2008.

Livermore Police Officers will be conducting specialized enforcement efforts throughout the course of the next year. Extra officers will be on duty patrolling areas frequented by motorcycles. Officers will be cracking down on traffic violations made by motorcyclists, and other vehicle drivers, that result in far too many motorcycle collisions, injuries and deaths.

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

IV. CONTACT PERSON: **Lieutenant Mike Peretti**
PHONE NUMBER: **925-371-4821**

Steve Sweeney
Chief of Police

V. DISTRIBUTION:

City Manager
Chief of Police
Support Services Captain

Operations Captain
Dispatch/Records
Watch Commander

Briefing Board
Press Board