



## PRESS RELEASE

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- I. DATE AND TIME OF PRESS RELEASE: November 12, 2010 @ 7:30 a.m.
- II. ANNOUNCEMENT:  
The Livermore Police Department continues special traffic enforcement program.
- III. FACTUAL INFORMATION:

In a continuing effort to save lives and prevent injuries on our city streets, the Livermore Police Department is expanding their regular traffic enforcement with special operations. These operations are funded by a recent \$119,000 grant awarded by the California Office of Traffic Safety. Special traffic enforcement measures will be instituted by the Livermore Police Department as law enforcement continues their commitment to keeping our roadways safe through both enforcement and education.

“We are pleased to once again receive a traffic safety grant from the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS)” said Chief Steve Sweeney. “We are proud to partner with OTS to increase our ability to promote traffic safety within our community. Over the last several years we have been able to use grant funds from OTS to provide traffic education and traffic enforcement within Livermore. Over the last three years we have seen a steady decline in the number of collisions occurring in Livermore. We hope this new grant will allow us to continue to keep the rate of collisions declining.”

The Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) grant is to assist in efforts to deal with traffic safety problems and to reduce the number of persons killed and injured in traffic collisions. Traffic deaths from all causes declined in 2009 in California by 10.3 percent from 3,434 killed in 2008 to 3,081 in 2009. The state recorded 950 alcohol-impaired driving fatalities in 2009, a 7.6 percent decline from 1,025 in 2008. However, DUI deaths remain at 31 percent of fatalities.

“Everyone in California should be heartened with these figures,” said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS). “But as encouraging as this is, we can’t let up on the efforts to encourage and enforce traffic safety. Thousands are still losing their lives or being severely injured on our roadways.”

The grant activities will specifically target Motorcycle Safety, DUI offenders, drivers with suspended or revoked licenses, red light running and speed violations. This will be done through the use of education programs, DUI/driver’s license checkpoints and special enforcement operations. The grant provides funding for overtime to conduct these special enforcement and education activities.

For the second year in a row, Livermore PD will receive funding for five special Motorcycle Safety Enforcement Operations. Motorcycle fatalities have finally turned and dropped in California, following a decade rise in deaths. In 2009, 393 motorcyclist were killed, a 29

percent drop from 2008 statistics. Sadly, California remains one of 3 states that still lead the nation in motorcyclist's deaths.

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.

"More people are making it home safely and alive each day," said Murphy. "But to keep this trend going, we will continue to strive to meet our vision – *Toward zero deaths, every 1 counts.*"

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

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Steve Sweeney  
Chief of Police

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