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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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## NEWS RELEASE

### HELP US SAVE LIVES THIS FOURTH OF JULY

#### *“DUI DOESN'T JUST MEAN BOOZE”*

As celebrations associated with Independence Day—fireworks, backyard barbeques and pool parties—wind down, it's vital we all work together to spread this life-saving message: *DUI Doesn't Just Mean Booze*. This Independence Day holiday, Beverly Hills Police Department wants to remind you to plan for a safe week of festivities by not driving under the influence of alcohol, marijuana or drugs. Doing so ensures you will not put others, and yourself, in danger by driving impaired.

To help reduce the heavy hearts and nightmarish memories as a result of impaired drivers, Beverly Hills Police Department will deploy officers on July 4, 2018 for DUI enforcement, specifically to stop and arrest drivers showing signs of alcohol or drug impairment.

*“We want our community to enjoy the Fourth of July holiday, but we want them to do so responsibly,”* said Chief Sandra Spagnoli.

In recent years, California has seen a disturbing increase in drug-impaired driving crashes. During the 2017 four-day Fourth of July holiday in California, 17 people were killed and 430 injured in alcohol involved crashes. Beverly Hills 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.”* If you take prescription drugs, particularly those with a driving or operating machinery warning on the label, you might be impaired enough to get a DUI. Marijuana can also be impairing, especially in combination with alcohol or other drugs, and can result in a DUI.

#### **Prepare for the Fourth**

If you will be drinking, plan how you will get around without driving. Remember these tips for a safe night on the roads:

- Designate a sober driver or use public transportation or a ride sharing service to get home safely.
- Have a friend or family member who is about to drive buzzed or impaired? Take the keys away and make arrangements to get them home safely.
- Report drunk drivers - call 911.

You can also do your part by volunteering to be a designated sober driver! Through the DDVIP program, select bars and restaurants are offering non-alcoholic specialty drinks for sober drivers, among other deals: <http://bit.ly/OTSDDrinks>.

### **The Costs of Drunk Driving**

Drinking and driving is dangerous, even if you're "just buzzed" or drug impaired. When you drive impaired, you risk the lives and safety of those riding with you and around you. You also risk a big hit on your wallet. A first time DUI arrest could cost you up to \$10,000 – which includes attorney fees, fines, very high insurance rates, car towing, an alcohol/drug education treatment program and lost time at work, not to mention jail time, years on probation, the loss of your vehicle and driver's license.

A final statistic to remember: drunk-driving deaths are 100-percent preventable.

This enforcement effort is funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety in conjunction with the City of Beverly Hills, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Whether by bike, car, motorcycle or walking, be a part of the solution and 'Go Safely California.'

The next statewide DUI campaign is National Impaired Driving Mobilization, which runs August 17 through the Labor Day Weekend.

To learn more about DDVIP and other OTS awareness, education and enforcement campaigns, visit [www.ots.ca.gov](http://www.ots.ca.gov), as well as our Facebook and Twitter pages: <https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaOTS/> and [https://twitter.com/OTS\\_CA?lang=en](https://twitter.com/OTS_CA?lang=en).



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