



PRESS RELEASE

CITY OF MURRIETA
POLICE DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 8, 2023

Murrieta Police Department Awarded Grant from the Office of Traffic Safety for Traffic Enforcement Program to Increase Safety on Roads

Murrieta, CA – The Murrieta Police Department was awarded \$210,000 thanks to a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS). The funding will support Murrieta PD's ongoing enforcement and education programs to help reduce the number of severe injuries and deaths on Murrieta roads.

"This funding will strengthen Murrieta PD's commitment to public safety in our community," said Murrieta Police Department Sergeant Steve Whiddon. "We will be able to increase our efforts in making our roads safer for everyone and focus on critical areas such as distracted driving, impaired driving, and speeding." Murrieta Police Department Captain Matt Henry shared, "The Murrieta Police Department, in partnership with the California Office of Traffic Safety, will be able to use these funds to increase the number of officers on the road, which will impact the overall safety of our community."

The grant will provide additional programs and resources, including:

- DUI checkpoints and patrols focused on stopping suspected impaired drivers.
- High-visibility distracted driving enforcement operations targeting drivers in violation of California's hands-free cell phone law.
- Enforcement operations focused on the most dangerous driver behaviors that put the safety of people biking or walking at risk.
- Enforcement operations focused on top violations that cause crashes: speeding, failure to yield, stop sign and/or red-light running, and improper turning or lane changes.
- Community presentations on traffic safety issues such as distracted driving, impaired driving, speeding, and bicycle and pedestrian safety.
- Collaborative enforcement efforts with neighboring agencies.
- Officer training and/or recertification: Standard Field Sobriety Test (SFST), Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE), and Drug Recognition Expert (DRE).

The grant program will run through September 2024. This program was funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



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