

# PRESS RELEASE



Seal Beach Police Department  
911 Seal Beach Blvd  
Seal Beach, CA 90740

November 12, 2015

Contact: Sgt. Phil Gonshak

Phone: (562) 342-7391

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Email: PGonshak@sealbeachca.gov

## **SEAL BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES GRANT FOR SPECIAL TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT AND CRASH PREVENTION**

The Seal Beach Police Department has been awarded a \$140,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for a year-long program of special enforcements and public awareness efforts to prevent traffic-related deaths and injuries. The Seal Beach Police 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.

According to Seal Beach Police Chief Joe Stillinovich, "The Seal Beach Police Department is proud to be a partnering law enforcement agency with the Office of Traffic Safety to conduct not only traffic safety enforcement operations but to provide an educational component to our traffic safety efforts. This traffic component serves as a critical part of our Seal Beach Police Department mission which is to drive down crime and improve the quality of life for residents and visitors."

After falling dramatically between 2006 and 2010, the number of persons killed and injured in traffic collisions has been slowly rising. Particularly alarming are recent increases in pedestrian and bicycle fatalities, the growing dangers of distracting technologies, and the emergence of drug-impaired driving as a major problem. This grant funding will provide opportunities to combat these and other devastating problems such as drunk driving, speeding, and crashes at intersections.

"Overall, California's roadways are among the safest in the nation," said OTS Director Rhonda Craft. "But to meet future mobility, safety, and accessible transportation objectives, we have to reverse this recent trend in order to reach our common goal – zero deaths on our roadways. The Office of Traffic Safety and the Seal Beach Police

Department want to work with everyone to create a culture of traffic safety across Seal Beach and the State.”

Activities that the grant will fund include:

- DUI checkpoints
- DUI saturation patrols
- Distracted driving enforcement
- Seat belt and child safety seat enforcement
- Bike, pedestrian and other educational presentations
- Bicycle and pedestrian safety enforcement
- Speed, red light, and stop sign enforcement
- Warrant service operations targeting multiple DUI offenders
- Compilation of DUI “Hot Sheets,” identifying worst-of-the-worst DUI offenders
- Specialized DUI and drugged driving training such as Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE), and Drug Recognition Evaluator (DRE)

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

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