



City of Ridgecrest Police Department

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RON STRAND, Chief of Police

Press Release

THE RIDGECREST POLICE DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES PROGRAM TO CURB TRAFFIC DEATHS AND INJURIES

The Ridgecrest Police Department is set to commence a year-long special traffic safety program aimed at preventing deaths and injuries on our roadways. New traffic enforcement measures are coming as a result of a recent \$111,510.00 grant awarded by the Office of Traffic Safety to Ridgecrest P.D. The Ridgecrest Police Department is dedicated to keeping our streets safe through both enforcement and education.

“The Ridgecrest Police Department is committed to protecting our motoring public, ensuring the smooth flow of traffic in the city, and encouraging the safe operation of vehicles within the city. We will accomplish these goals through proactive enforcement, by responding to and investigating traffic collisions and by developing solutions to various problem traffic areas within the city”, said Chief of Police Ron Strand.

“The Police Department is constantly looking for ways to improve its service to the public, and often times can accomplish this by seeking grants to provide additional money and personnel that would otherwise be unavailable. The police department actively seeks grant funds on a continuous basis from the California Office of Traffic Safety”.

The Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) grant is to assist in efforts to deal with traffic safety problems and reduce the number of persons killed and injured in traffic collisions. The grant activities will specifically target DUI offenders, drivers with suspended or revoked licenses, illegal street racing, red light running, and seatbelt violations. This will be done through the use of DUI/driver’s license checkpoints, special enforcement operations, and court stings where DUI offenders with suspended or revoked driver licenses get behind the wheel after leaving court.

The grant also provides funding for the purchase of a new Police Motorcycle and overtime to conduct special enforcement activities.

“The bottom line is that following traffic laws, whether it's using seat belts, driving sober, or not speeding, makes sense because it saves lives” said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the Office of Traffic Safety. “This grant will help make the roadways of Ridgecrest safer for everyone.”

Funding for the grant comes from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Prepared by: Sergeant Mike Myers

**RON STRAND, Chief of Police
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