



NEWS RELEASE

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Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with a Designated Sober Driver

San Gabriel, CA - Officers from the San Gabriel Police Department's DUI Enforcement Team will deploy this weekend, beginning Friday, May 5, 2017, between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. in areas with high frequencies of DUI collisions and/or arrests. The effort is designed to stop and arrest alcohol and drug-impaired drivers. The deployment will include high visibility enforcement using both DUI checkpoints, and DUI saturation patrols. Research shows, crashes involving an impaired driver can be reduced by up to 20 percent when well-publicized proactive DUI operations are conducted routinely.

Unfortunately, during the Cinco de Mayo holiday, there have been deadly consequences due to buzzed, drunk, and drugged driving. Forty people were killed in impaired driving crashes across the nation during the Cinco de Mayo holiday period in 2016, and 270 were killed from 2011-2015. Annually, in California, alcohol involved collisions have led to numerous deaths and injuries because someone failed to designate a sober driver. There has also been a disturbing increase in drug-impaired driving crashes in California and across the nation.

San Gabriel 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 may be considered impaired, and not in condition to drive. Marijuana can also cause impairment, especially in combination with alcohol or other drugs, and can result in DUI.

In San Gabriel, over the course of the past three years, officers have investigated 72 DUI collisions which have claimed one life and resulted in another 25 injuries.

Consequently; officers will intensify efforts to look for signs of alcohol and/or drug impairment. When possible, specially trained officers will be available to evaluate those suspected of drug-impaired driving, which now accounts for a growing number of impaired driving crashes.

This Cinco de Mayo, plan your sober ride home before the party begins. Drivers are encouraged to download the Designated Driver VIP, (DDVIP) free mobile app for Android or iPhone. The app helps find nearby bars and restaurants that feature free incentives for the designated sober driver, from free, non-alcoholic drinks, to free appetizers, and more. The feature-packed app even has social media tie-ins and even a tab for the non-DD to call Uber, Lyft or Curb.

The cost of a ride home is cheap! Drivers caught driving impaired can expect the impact of a DUI arrest to include jail time, fines, fees, DUI classes, license suspensions and other expenses that can exceed \$10,000.

Funding for this DUI operation is provided to San Gabriel Police Department Police Department by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, reminding everyone to 'Report Drunk Drivers - Call 9-1-1'.

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