



BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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St. Patrick's Day DUI Checkpoint

City of Berkeley Police Prepare for Impaired Drivers

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Berkeley, California (Thursday, March 15, 2012) The City of Berkeley Police Department (BPD) Traffic Bureau, in cooperation with the Alameda County "*Avoid the 21*" program, will be conducting a DUI checkpoint on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th. The checkpoint will be located at the intersection of San Pablo Avenue and Jones Street between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 1:30 a.m. Checkpoints are placed in locations that have the greatest opportunity for achieving drunk or drugged driving intervention and provide the greatest safety for the community and public safety personnel.

Officers will be contacting drivers passing through the checkpoint. The Officers will be looking for signs of alcohol and/or drug impairment. Drivers caught driving impaired can expect jail, license suspension, and insurance increases, as well as fines, fees, DUI classes, court probation and other expenses that can exceed \$10,000.

All too often, members of our community are senselessly injured or killed on local roadways by impaired drivers. This DUI checkpoint is an effort to reduce those tragedies. A major component of these checkpoints is the deterrent effect it has on those who might drive drunk or drugged impaired and bring about more awareness, encouraging everyone to use sober designated drivers.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), checkpoints have provided the most effective documented results of any of the DUI enforcement strategies, while also yielding considerable cost savings of \$6 for every \$1 spent.

Funding for this operation is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



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