



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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(562) 940-2501



JERRY E. POWERS
Chief Probation Officer

Specialized DUI Unit Cracks Down on Drunk Driving

Date: Saturday, November 16, 2013

Time: 9:00pm to 2:00am

Location: Corner of Holt Avenue and Union Street

Contact: Renee Adkins, Deputy Probation Officer II

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Los Angeles County Probation's Specialized DUI Unit and Pomona Police are kicking off the holiday season with a holiday DUI check point.

"We are sending the message early and often. Do not drink and drive," says Chief Probation Officer Jerry Powers.

Since 2006, LA County Probation's "Specialized DUI Unit" has supervised over 500 high risk DUI cases, including offenders with at least one felony DUI related conviction. This specialized unit is tasked with providing background information and onsite public safety at holiday check points which will be set up starting this Saturday.

A significant number the 2013 Specialized DUI Unit Probation cases reside in Pomona.

"Probation wears two hats. There's the social worker side and then there is the enforcement side," says Supervising Deputy Probation Officer Kristine Kucharik, "We blend those two together by assuring the safety of the community by evaluating why that offender continues to get behind the wheel and drive"

The Specialized DUI Unit conducts home searches of high risk DUI offenders for evidence of drinking but also counseling. This combination approach has resulted in a 97% success rate with this high risk population.

Since its first funding in 2006 by the federal Office of Traffic Safety, LA Probation's Specialized DUI Unit has learned a lot about its high risk DUI Probationers: According to LA County Probation data, most are male, over 30 years old, employed with families but also with a history of domestic violence.

Additional information/interviews available at the Pomona check point:

Deputy Probation Officer II Renee Adkins

Deputy Probation Officer II Jordan Parrish



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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Chief Probation Officer

PROBATION - SPECIALIZED DUI UNIT

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As a specialized program of the Probation Department's District 1- Pomona Valley Adult Field Services Bureau, individuals who have been convicted of one or more felony Driving Under the Influence (DUI) offenses or three or more misdemeanor DUI offenses receive intensive supervision by two (2) highly skilled Deputy Probation Officers. Low caseloads are maintained to enable the Officers to conduct community-based enforcement activities as well as monitor the offenders' ability to access and follow through on substance abuse treatment. The blending of both law enforcement and social rehabilitation helps to promote a positive offender behavior change with an increased ability to reduce risks of incidents due to driving under the influence.

Goal: The Probation DUI Unit was implemented in 2006 through the award of grant funds and partnership with the California State Office of Traffic Safety and local law enforcement agencies to: 1) reduce the number of new DUI offenses by DUI probationers; 2) reduce the number of DUI probationers arrested/cited for driving with suspended or revoked license; and 3) to increase the percentage of DUI Probationers in compliance with court-ordered probation

Geographical Service Area: Pomona and San Gabriel Valley communities.

Intensive Supervision:

The Probation Officers: 1) develop a case plan based on an assessment of the probationer's criminogenic needs/protective and risk factors, family dynamics and the types of service interventions needed to address underlying problems and which directs the Officers' work with the probationer; 2) conduct, at minimum, one office visit monthly with each probationer; 3) conduct monthly unannounced face-to face home/field contacts which allows for a working relationship with not only the probationer but the probationer's family; 4) conduct a breathalyzer and/or narcotic urinalysis testing of each probationer; 5) monitor Court and/or Department of Motor Vehicles Ignition Interlock Device compliance to assure probationer's are not driving with a suspended driver's license; and 6) participate in collaborative, multi-agency special operations task forces including, sobriety check points.

Probationer Profile: According to LA County Probation data, most DUI probationers are male; over 30 years old; employed; may suffer from alcoholism, drug addiction, bouts of depression; and as a protective factor have families agreeable to receiving Probation services.

Outcome: 97% overall compliance rate (no warrants, no new DUI case, no non-enrollment in DUI School, no citations/arrests for driving w/suspended license).

Rebuild Lives and Provide for Healthier and Safer Communities