



Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office

City of Goleta Police



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News Release

Goleta Police Department Receives Traffic Education and Enforcement Grant

Goleta – The Goleta Police Department has been awarded an \$85,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for a year-long enforcement and public awareness program. The traffic safety program is intended to educate the public on safe roadway habits and deter people from violating traffic laws or practicing other unsafe behaviors that lead to injuries and fatalities.

“It is an honor to continue our partnership with the California Office of Traffic Safety. Traffic safety is a high priority in our city and this grant will allow us the ability to augment our existing efforts towards safer streets,” said Lieutenant Brian Thielst, Chief of Police Services for the City of Goleta.

The OTS grant will fund a variety of education and enforcement activities for the 2019 federal fiscal year (Oct. 1, 2018 to Sept. 30, 2019):

- DUI checkpoints and saturation patrols to take suspected alcohol/drug-impaired drivers, and those unlicensed or with a revoked/suspended license, off the road.
- Traffic safety education presentations for youth and community members focusing on distracted, impaired and teen driving, and bicycle/pedestrian safety.
- Patrols at intersections with increased incidents of pedestrian and bike collisions.
- Speeding, red light and stop sign enforcement.
- Compilation of DUI “Hot Sheets” identifying repeat DUI offenders
- Specialized DUI and drugged driving training to identify and apprehend suspected impaired drivers.

In 2016, 3,623 people were killed in crashes across the state, a 7 percent increase from 2015, according to the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#). Particularly alarming is the rise in pedestrian deaths, with 867 pedestrians killed on California roadways in 2016, a nearly 33 percent increase from 2012. With the growing dangers of distracting technologies, such as mobile phones, and drug-impaired driving, this grant funding will provide opportunities to combat these dangerous and illegal behaviors.

“Almost all crashes are preventable,” OTS director Rhonda Craft said. “Education and enforcement go hand in hand helping change behaviors that cause devastating crashes.”

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

The City of Goleta contracts with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office for police services.