PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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DUI/Driver's License Checkpoint Planned This Friday

Riverside, CA – The Riverside Police Department Traffic Unit will be conducting a DUI/Driver's License checkpoint on Friday, May 18, 2012, at an undisclosed location within the city limits between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m. DUI checkpoints are a proven enforcement tool effective in reducing the number of persons killed and injured in alcohol involved crashes. Research shows that crashes involving alcohol drop by an average of 20 percent when well-publicized checkpoints are conducted often enough.

Officers will be contacting drivers passing through the checkpoint for signs of alcohol and/or drug impairment. Officers will also check for proper licensing and will strive to delay motorists only momentarily. Drivers caught driving impaired can expect jail, license suspension, and insurance increases, as well as fines, DUI classes, and other expenses that can exceed $10,000.

"Over the course of the past three years, DUI collisions have claimed 18 lives and resulted in 201 injury crashes harming 299 of our friends and neighbors," said Riverside Police Sergeant Skip Showalter.

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. Checkpoints are placed in locations that have the greatest opportunity for achieving drunk and drugged driving deterrence and provide the greatest safety for officers and the public.

"Deaths from drunk and drug-impaired driving are going down in California," said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS). "But that still means that hundreds of our friends, family and co-workers are killed each year, along with tens of thousands who are seriously injured. We must all continue to work together to bring an end to these tragedies. If you see a Drunk Driver – Call 9-1-1."

Funding for this checkpoint is provided to Riverside Police Department by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, targeting those who still don't heed the message to designate a sober driver.

MEDIA NOTES: To schedule an interview regarding the Riverside Traffic Safety Operations, please contact Sergeant Skip Showalter, (951) 351-6046, or via email at sshowalter@riversideca.gov. To schedule an interview regarding impaired driving efforts and programs in California please contact Chris Cochran, California Office of Traffic Safety at (916) 509-3063 or via email at ccochran@ots.ca.gov.

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