

# ***PRESS RELEASE***

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2007**  
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### **RIVERSIDE TARGETS DUI DRIVERS AND STREET RACERS**

*A grant from the Office of Traffic Safety funds enforcement and training programs*

Riverside, CA –The Riverside Police Department has received a \$503,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety to fund enforcement and training programs designed to put a stop to Driving Under the Influence (DUI) and Street Racing, Chris Murphy, Director of the California Office of Traffic Safety, announced today at a press conference at Riverside’s Magnolia Policing Center.

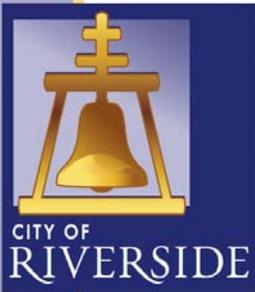
The grant will fund overtime for officers to conduct roving patrols to locate both DUI drivers and speed violators throughout the city. DUI checkpoints will be conducted to locate people driving under the influence, unlicensed or uninsured drivers and vehicles with illegal modifications. Educational programs will be conducted for students on the dangers of Illegal Street Racing that involve a presentation from teenager Trais Hand, who was convicted of a 2006 street racing fatality on a Riverside thoroughfare. In addition to student presentations, officers will be trained to detect and cite illegal vehicle modifications commonly used for street racing.

Riverside Police have investigated 41 fatal collisions in the past two years; 12 of these collisions were caused by DUI drivers and four involved street racing. Law enforcement needs the tools to take the action necessary to put a stop to these horrendous acts that are a threat to public safety. This grant will help fund programs that will enable officers to do so.

The Riverside Police Department is pleased to be collaborating with the Ontario Police Department and the Irwindale Police Department in a combined effort to combat street racing in the entire southern California region. A total of \$1.44 million in grants was awarded to the three departments for programming over the next two years. Funding for this grant comes from the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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# ***PRESS RELEASE FACT BLAST***

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## **Riverside Targets DUI Drivers and Street Racers**

### **RECENTLY COMPLETED STREET RACING AND DUI GRANTS (2005/2007)**

- The DUI grant resulted in 52 roving DUI patrols, 50 felony warrant details and 8 DUI Checkpoints.
- 532 traffic stops were conducted during the roving patrols, resulting in 86 arrests.
- The warrant detail attempted 125 warrant services resulting in 41 arrests.
- More than 16,000 vehicles were screened at the DUI Checkpoints netting 26 DUI arrests and 452 vehicle impounds.
- The Street Racing grant resulted in 60 Drag-Net classes with over 800 officers trained.
- Riverside Police Department collaborated with Ontario and Irwindale Police departments to train nearly 2000 officers to identify modified vehicles.
- 412 citations were issued to vehicles with illegal modifications and 60 were arrested for street racing.
- 60 assemblies were conducted at Riverside schools with more than 3,300 were educated on the risks involved with street racing.
- In Riverside, 4 people have been killed in racing related collisions in the last two years. Since February of 2007, there have been none.

### **NEW 2007/2009 OTS SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (STEP)**

- **\$503,000** funded by a grant from the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.”
- The goal is to reduce the number of persons killed and injured in DUI and street racing-related accidents.
- Riverside Police will be identifying and targeting DUI drivers and those who participate in illegal street racing, as well as the spectators.
- A regional task force will be established to combat illegal street racing (Dragnet)
- Provides funding for large and small-scale enforcement operations.
- Law enforcement officers will be educated in the recognition of modified vehicles and how to enforce related vehicle code violations.
- Provides DUI training to field officers

### **FACTS AND INFORMATION**

- It is a violation of the Riverside Municipal Codes to be a spectator at an illegal street race and the City of Riverside has a forfeiture ordinance allowing the police department to seize the racers' vehicles.
- Crimes associated with street racing – shootings, stabbings, assaults, carjacking, looting, vandalism, insurance fraud and graffiti will be impacted.
- Parents should be aware that their children are attending these races, which are occurring between the hours of 11:00 pm and 4:30 am.
- Illegal street racing often ends in tragedy – Nobody thinks they are going to be the next victim in this dangerous activity but more than 100 people a year in California are killed in racing related collisions and hundreds more are injured.