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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: November 5, 2020



SAN FERNANDO POLICE DEPARTMENT AWARDED \$33,000 GRANT FROM THE CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY (OTS)

SAN FERNANDO, CA – The safety of everyone traveling is the focus of a grant awarded to the San Fernando Police Department. The \$33,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) will assist in San Fernando PD’s efforts to reduce deaths and injuries on San Fernando roads.

“Despite the reduced traffic due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to experience driving under the influence traffic related accidents and arrests,” San Fernando PD Lieutenant Nichole Hanchett said. “This funding allows us to conduct interdiction efforts and educate our community regarding the hazards of driving under the influence or driving while distracted.”

The one-year grant is for the 2021 federal fiscal year, which runs from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021.

The grant will fund a variety of traffic safety programs, including:

- Patrols with emphasis on alcohol and drug-impaired driving prevention.
- Patrols with emphasis on education of traffic rights for bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Patrols with emphasis on awareness and education of primary causes of crashes: excess speed, failure to yield, failure to stop at stop signs/signals, improper turning/lane changes.

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

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- Community education presentations on traffic safety issues such as distracted driving, DUI, speed, bicycle and pedestrian safety.
- Officer training and/or recertification: Standard Field Sobriety Test (SFST), Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) and Drug Recognition Expert (DRE).

“Through education and behavior changes, we hope to create an environment that is safe and equitable for all road users in our community,” Lieutenant Hanchett said.

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

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