



OCTOBER

COUNTY OF FRESNO

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FRESNO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AWARDED SPECIAL DUI PROSECUTION GRANT

Those arrested for DUI in Fresno County, especially repeat offenders and those involved in fatal or injury crashes, can expect to face highly trained, specialized prosecutors, thanks to a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety. The \$566,153.00 grant to the Fresno County District Attorney's Office will fund a Vertical Prosecution team that will work cases from arrest through conviction and sentencing.

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office will use these OTS funds to make the streets of our county safer by prosecuting drunk and drugged drivers.

Funding from this DUI Prosecution Grant will aid the District Attorney's Office in handling cases throughout each step of the criminal process, prosecuting both alcohol and drug-impaired driving cases. In fatal and major injury DUI vehicle collisions, members of the team may respond to the crash scene to be part of the investigation.

In the past year under the 2015-2016 OTS grant, the vertical prosecution team filed 123 felony and misdemeanor cases of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs. The office as a whole filed 5,326 DUI cases.

Prosecution team members will work with the State's Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Program to expand knowledge and resources in the office by obtaining and delivering specialized training, including training in the emerging problem of drug-impaired driving. Team members will share information with peers and law enforcement personnel throughout the county and across the state.

The purpose of the program is to prevent impaired driving and reduce alcohol and drug-impaired traffic fatalities and injuries. In 2013 there were 43 deaths and 448 serious injuries as a result of DUI crashes in the County.

"When there is a trained, seasoned and committed team working serious DUI cases, prosecutors get the positive results needed," said OTS Director Rhonda Craft. "The Office of Traffic Safety

and the Fresno County District Attorney's Office will be working together to help keep the streets and highways safe across Fresno and the state.”

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

The Media may email FCDAMedia@co.fresno.ca.us or contact Administrative Assistant Lorrie Mullins at (559) 600-4467 with questions.

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