



COUNTY OF FRESNO

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NEWS RELEASE

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Fresno County District Attorney's Office Awarded DUI Prosecution Grant

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office will have a specialized team to prosecute alcohol and drug-impaired driving cases, thanks to a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS).

The \$253,070 awarded is for a one-year period from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020.

"Unfortunately, every single injury and death caused by driving under the influence is preventable. The D.A.'s Office will put these funds to use to prosecute those offenders who continue to choose to drink and drive, and put all of the citizens of Fresno County at risk," said Assistant District Attorney Steve Wright.

Grant funding will be used to maintain a prosecution program focused solely on driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drug cases, provide training for prosecutors and investigators through California's Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Program, and coordinate with law enforcement to handle all steps of the criminal process.

This is the 15th year that the District Attorney's Office has received funding from the OTS for a DUI prosecution program. Last year, the prosecution team filed 141 DUI cases, including 10 DUI drug cases and 10 DUI alcohol and drug combined cases.

Impaired driving remains a major problem in Fresno County. Last year in the City of Fresno, 2,298 drivers were arrested for driving under the influence.

"Prosecution programs ensure drivers who decide to drive impaired and put others on the road at risk are held accountable," OTS Director Barbara Rooney said. "Accountability is important in highlighting the dangers and consequences of driving under the influence."

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

