



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF SHASTA

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PRESS RELEASE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO PROSECUTE LARGE NUMBER OF
HOLIDAY DUI CASES

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The District Attorney's Office is prepared to review and prosecute the large number of DUI cases generated by the DUI arrests made by law enforcement over the holiday season. According to law enforcement officers, 91 arrests were made. Normally, such an increase would be overwhelming, but thanks to the California Office of Traffic Safety, the Shasta County District Attorney's Office is well equipped to handle this increase.

In October 2009, the Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, awarded a one-year grant in the amount of \$144, 027 to the Shasta County District Attorney to fund a fulltime DUI prosecutor position. The District Attorney's Office received a similar multi-year grant for the previous two years. Based on the success of that grant, a new grant was issued for Shasta County. This new grant allows the District Attorney to continue its focus on reducing DUI related injuries and deaths in Shasta County.

Shasta County District Attorney Jerry Benito began implementing new policies designed to crack down on DUI offenders in 2004. Since the implementation of these new policies by the District Attorney's Office, increased efforts by law enforcement, and more accountability of offenders by the Shasta County probation department and the Superior Court, there has been a decrease in both DUI related injuries and deaths. According to state statistics, since 2005 through 2008, the number of DUI related injuries has decreased by 13%. More significantly, the number of DUI deaths has dropped a dramatic 40% from 2005 to 2008.

The grant received by the Office of Traffic Safety will help ensure that this positive trend continues by allowing the District Attorney to dedicate a full-time prosecutor who specializes in DUI prosecution. This specialization results in better cases for prosecution.

For questions, contact District Attorney Jerry Benito at 245-6310.