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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **STANISLAUS COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT TO KEEP TIGHT REIN ON HIGH-RISK DUI OFFENDERS**

Felony and repeat misdemeanor DUI offenders are over represented in traffic crashes involving alcohol or other drugs, often with tragic results. The Stanislaus County Probation Department will be making sure that these worst-of-the-worst offenders are complying with all court orders by means of a new traffic safety grant. The \$49,000 grant was awarded by the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

“Funding from the Office of Traffic Safety will continue to provide the department the needed resources to supervise these offenders and ensure compliance with their terms and conditions of probation,” said Chief Probation Officer Jill Silva.

The grant will fund officers to keep an eye on individuals who are on probation for felony DUI or multiple misdemeanor DUI convictions. Supervision for these high-risk offenders will include unannounced home searches, random alcohol and drug testing and monitoring to ensure compliance with court-ordered DUI education and treatment programs.

The Intensive Probation Supervision for High-Risk Felony and Repeat DUI Offenders grant is aimed at reducing the number of persons killed and injured in alcohol and other drug related collisions in the county. Available statistics for 2010 indicate, 15 were killed and 267 injured in such crashes in Stanislaus County.

The Stanislaus County Probation Department will also collaborate with other local law enforcement agencies to conduct DUI/Driver license checkpoints and warrant service operations targeting individuals who fail to make court appearances after DUI arrests.

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Drunk driving is one of America's deadliest crimes. In 2010, nationally 10,225 people died in highway crashes involving a driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher. In California, the number killed was 791.

"California's DUI death totals dropped significantly for five years," said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the Office of Traffic Safety. "But as the economy improves and people have more to celebrate, we don't want those figures to go back up. An effective way to combat that is through insuring these serious DUI offenders aren't on a path back to drunk or drugged driving."

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