

4 SUSPENDED DRIVERS APPREHENDED DURING UNDERCOVER COURT STING Repeat DUI Offenders Caught Driving Away From Court

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, December 21, 2011

DUI Campaign UPDATE
Day 5 of 18 – Through Tuesday, December 20, 2011

**4 SUSPENDED DRIVERS APPREHENDED
DURING UNDERCOVER COURT STING
Repeat DUI Offenders Caught Driving Away From Court**

Santa Rosa, California – AVOID the 13 Sonoma County DUI Task Force conducted an undercover court sting at the Sonoma County Hall of Justice today between the hours of 8:30am and 12:00pm. Officers from Petaluma Police Department, Santa Rosa Police Department, Sonoma County Sheriff's Office, Sebastopol Police Department, Healdsburg Police Department, Cotati Police Department, and Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety participated in the operation. Officer in plain clothes monitored defendants appearing in court for DUI offenses as well as suspended and unlicensed violations. When defendants left the court, the undercover officers maintained surveillance of them as they walked outside to their vehicle. If the suspended or unlicensed driver got behind the wheel of a vehicle and drove they were apprehended by motor officers waiting nearby. This morning's operation resulted in five drivers being apprehended.

At 9:35am, ****, age 46, from Rohnert Park was stopped after driving away on a suspended license from a previous driving on a suspended license case where he failed to appear. That violation was from a previous DUI conviction. He was issued a citation to appear in court and his vehicle was impounded.

At 9:50am, ****, age 41, from Boyes Hot Springs, was stopped after driving away on a suspended license for two prior DUI offenses. He was issued a citation to appear and his vehicle was impounded for 30 days.

At 10:06am, ****, age 26, from Willits was stopped after driving away on a suspended license for failing to appear in court for driving without a license. His vehicle was impounded for 30 days. He was issued a citation to appear in court.

At 10:45am, ****, age 45, from Sonoma was seen driving away on a suspended license for 3 prior DUI's. He was appearing in court for two pending driving on a suspended license violations. He was issued another citation for driving on a suspended license and his vehicle was impounded for 30 days.

This operation was conducted as part of 2011 Winter Mobilization Period that began Friday December 16, 2011 and continues through Monday, January 2, 2012. The purpose of the operation is to apprehend dangerous drivers and reduce alcohol related fatal and injury collisions through increased enforcement and public awareness.

The DUI Task Force reported 65 DUI arrests since Friday December 16th. CHP Santa Rosa Area has reported the only two injury DUI collisions with two injured persons in the same time frame. Details on both collisions were previously released to the media by CHP. There have been NO FATAL alcohol involved collisions since December 16th.

Funding for the Avoid Campaign is made possible through a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Media Advisory for Upcoming DUI Campaign Operations

The AVOID the 13 DUI Task Force has numerous operations planned during the remaining days of the campaign period. There will be two more checkpoints conducted at undisclosed locations throughout Sonoma County. There will be DUI Task Force Strike Team operations each weekend where officers will be performing random DUI probation and parole checks of DUI offenders, searching for DUI warrant suspects, and roving DUI patrols.

The national Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over crackdown is led by NHTSA with the California Avoid DUI Task Force Campaign combining high-visibility enforcement and heightened public awareness through publicity. For more information, visit the High-Visibility Enforcement Campaign Headquarters at www.StopImpairedDriving.org.

Statewide and local Avoid DUI Task Force Campaign Enforcement Schedules and Daily DUI Arrest/Fatal Stats, visit the www.californiaavoid.org. The Program is funded by the California Office of Traffic Safety who reminds everyone to please – Report Drunk Driving – Call 9-1-1!

Media Notes: To schedule an interview regarding Anti Drunk-Driving efforts, or request a ride-along with law enforcement during the holiday period, please contact Sergeant Ken Savano via email at ksavano@ci.petaluma.ca.us.

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AVOID the 13 Sonoma County DUI Task Force - The Petaluma Police Department serves as the lead agency for the regional DUI enforcement efforts in Sonoma County to reduce alcohol-involved fatalities and injuries and raise general public awareness regarding the problems associated with drinking and driving. Participating agencies include Police Departments from the cities of Cloverdale, Cotati, Healdsburg, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Sonoma, Windsor, the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department, Sonoma County Probation Department, Sonoma State University Police Department, Santa Rosa Junior College Police Department, ABC, MADD, the California Highway Patrol, and State Parks. Grant funded

activities include DUI checkpoints, DUI saturation patrols, DUI Task Force Operations and Warrant/Court Sting operations for repeat DUI offenders during the Memorial Day, Fourth of July, August-Labor Day Mobilization, Winter Holiday Mobilization, and other designated Special Events and holidays with identified DUI problems. AVOID the 13 is a collaborative enforcement and education effort between the 13 law enforcement agencies in Sonoma County. For further information go to www.californiaavoid.org.

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