



OFFICE OF THE

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office Awarded Special DUI Prosecution Grant**

Those arrested for DUI in Stanislaus 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 \$346,802 grant to the Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office will fund a Vertical Prosecution team that will work cases from arrest through sentencing.

"Impaired driving is a serious threat to public safety," states District Attorney Birgit Fladager. "This grant allows us to vigorously investigate and prosecute offenders in order to keep our streets and highways safe for everyone."

Funding from this DUI Prosecution Grant will aid the Stanislaus County 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.

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 2012 there were 12 deaths and 316 serious injuries as a result of DUI crashes in Stanislaus County.

"California's roadways are still among the safest in the nation," said OTS Director Rhonda Craft. "But to meet future mobility, safety, and sustainability objectives, we must create safer roadways

for all users. The Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office will be using these and other resources to reach the vision we all share – *Toward zero deaths, every 1 counts.*”

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

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