NEWS RELEASE

Incident Date/Time: Tuesday, December 24, 2019

Location: 1200-1300 blocks of San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, CA

Type of Crime/Incident: Results of DUI/Driver’s License Checkpoint

Summary:

San Carlos, CA: The San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office conducted a Sobriety/Driver’s License checkpoint on Friday, December 20, 2019, between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. Checkpoints are placed in locations that have the greatest opportunity for achieving drunk and drugged driving deterrence and provide the greatest safety for officers and the public.

Overall, the checkpoint yielded the following:

- 448 vehicles screened
- 2 drivers cited for operating a vehicle while unlicensed
- 1 driver arrested due to extensive history of operating a vehicle with a suspended/revoked license for a previous DUI

In recent years, California has seen a disturbing increase in drug-impaired driving crashes. The San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office supports the effort from the Office of Traffic Safety that aims to educate all drivers that “DUI Doesn’t Just Mean Booze.” If you take prescription drugs, particularly those with a warning against driving or operating machinery on the label, you might be impaired enough to get a DUI. Marijuana can also be impairing, especially in combination with alcohol or other drugs, and can result in a DUI.

Studies of California drivers have shown that 30 percent of drivers in fatal crashes had one or more drugs in their systems. A study of active drivers showed more tested positive for drugs
that may impair driving (14%) than for alcohol (7.3%). Of the drugs, marijuana was most prevalent (7.4%).

Drivers are encouraged to arrange for a designated driver or utilize a car service. Having a plan before the drinking starts makes things easier. Alcohol affects mood, judgement, and reasoning, so it’s best to make the decision before the party starts.

Individuals caught driving impaired can expect the impact of a DUI arrest to include jail time, fines, fees, DUI classes, license suspensions, and other expenses that can exceed $10,000, not to mention the embarrassment when friends and family find out.

The San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office continue conducting DUI Saturation Patrols throughout the Holiday Season in our commitment to lowering DUI related incidents on our roads.

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