

# NEWS



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## **Sunnyvale DUI Checkpoint Scheduled for January 3**

SUNNYVALE, Calif. – The Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety (DPS) officers will operate a safety and sobriety checkpoint on Jan. 3, 2013. The primary purpose of the checkpoint is to promote public safety by increasing awareness of the dangers associated with drinking and driving as part of a countywide effort to remind residents to “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.”

Vehicles traveling southbound on Mathilda between Washington and El Camino Real will be randomly stopped and drivers will be evaluated to determine their state of sobriety. Officers will also look at the safety of the vehicle, use of seatbelts and the validity of the operator’s license. The checkpoint is scheduled to operate from 9 p.m. until 3 a.m.

Each year, a countywide “Avoid the 13” safe-driving program is launched by police agencies in Santa Clara County with funding provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Numerous checkpoints are established throughout the county, all with the intent of educating the public to the perils of driving while impaired. Even with public outreach events like safety and sobriety checkpoints, Sunnyvale DPS made 294 drunk driving arrests last year and still responded to 81 drunk driving accidents in our City.

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As part of this year's public outreach efforts, the Jan. 3 checkpoint will be adding a social media component where residents can tweet and join a Google hangout with public safety officers working the event. Residents will be able to ask the officers questions, get a behind-the-scenes look at the event and learn how residents, friends and family members can avoid becoming another DUI statistic. To participate in advance of the event, submit questions for the officers and connect with the City over social media, follow the City of Sunnyvale at *Twitter.inSunnyvale.com* and *GooglePlus.inSunnyvale.com*. Images from the event will also be posted on *Facebook.inSunnyvale.com* and *Flickr.inSunnyvale.com* the next business day.

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