



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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Probation No. 19-10

DATE: 10/21/2019  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT AWARDED GRANT TO MONITOR HIGH-RISK AND REPEAT DUI OFFENDERS**

**(SANTA BARBARA, CALIF.)**—The Santa Barbara County Probation Department will be using a one-year, \$154,950.00 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to supervise high-risk, repeat DUI offenders with suspended or revoked licenses.

Santa Barbara County Probation Department Chief Tanja Heitman stated, “The partnership with the Office of Traffic Safety provides an additional resource to the Santa Barbara County Probation Department allowing greater protection of the community. This grant will enhance not only the safety of individuals behind the wheel, but passengers and pedestrians alike. The statistics are clear that driving under the influence has been a critical factor in many vehicle-related deaths. We are pleased to be able to continue our efforts working with high risk DUI offenders to prevent further incidents of drinking and driving.”

The grant period is from October 1, 2019, to September 30, 2020, and will provide funding for a dedicated Probation Officer who will focus their efforts on those DUI offenders who present the greatest risk to the Santa Maria Valley. Case management and supervision strategies will be used to make sure offenders follow court ordered terms of their probation, including home, work and office visits, alcohol testing, and warrant service operations. In addition, funding will be used to develop “Hot Sheets” that identify repeat DUI offenders, and to work with court officials to establish probation orders for DUI offenders on probation.

This grant is aimed at reducing the number of persons killed and injured in alcohol-related collisions, as well as lower DUI recidivism rates.

“Supervision programs help make sure DUI offenders are held accountable for their actions and not putting others at risk,” OTS Director Barbara Rooney said. “Our coordinated effort with the Santa Barbara County Probation Department reduces the chances of probationers re-offending.”

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



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