



RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE
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DA'S OFFICE RECEIVES STATE GRANT FOR PROGRAM TO PROSECUTE CASES INVOLVING DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS

RIVERSIDE – Drivers arrested in Riverside County on suspicion of driving under the influence of drugs or a combination of alcohol and drugs can expect to continue facing highly specialized prosecutors funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety and approved by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors.

The \$432,708 grant to the Riverside County District Attorney's Office continues to fund a vertical prosecution team that will handle driving under the influence of drugs (DUID) cases from arrest all the way through sentencing. The new grant covers two deputy district attorneys for fiscal year 2018/2019.

The grant was unanimously approved by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors on Oct. 30, 2018.

Over the previous grant period from Oct. 1, 2017 to Sept. 30, 2018, the DA's Office countywide filed 8,468 DUI cases – up from 7,344 DUI cases filed over the same period the previous year. Of those 8,468 cases filed, 127 filed cases across Riverside County were driving under the influence of drugs only and another 793 cases filed were a combination of drugs and alcohol.

While alcohol remains the primary cause in DUI crashes, the DA's Office supports the effort from the state Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) that aims to drive home awareness that "DUI Doesn't Just Mean Booze". Prescription medications and marijuana can, by themselves or in combination with alcohol, impair drivers resulting in a DUI arrest.

Under the grant, prosecution team members will work with the state's Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Training Network to expand knowledge and resources in the office by obtaining and delivering specialized training, including 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 grant period runs from Oct. 1, 2018, through Sept. 30, 2019. Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Administration.

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