



POLICE NEWS RELEASE

Issue Date: August 18, 2009
Contact: Sgt. Kevin Glasgow, (818) 898-1264
kglasgow@sfcity.org

New City Report Shows Decline in Traffic Accidents, Increase in DUI Arrests Stats Reflect Increase in Hit and Runs; Majority of DUI Arrests are Non-City Residents

Today, the San Fernando Police Department (SFPD) issued its traffic report for FY 2008-09 that saw decreases in traffic collisions, and major increases in DUI arrests and moving violations. Among the highlights:

Injury Traffic Collisions. Injury traffic collisions dropped 31 percent over the prior year with a reported 74 cases. Most were caused by motorists running red lights or not yielding while making left turns. Only one traffic fatality occurred when a cyclist lost control of his motorcycle and struck a curb on North Maclay Ave. That collision involved only the victim.

Non-Injury Traffic Collisions. Non-injury traffic collisions saw a 12 percent decrease over the prior year with a reported 197 cases. Nearly half of those cases were a result from hit and runs, mostly from unlicensed and uninsured drivers. This segment is estimated to represent nearly a quarter of San Fernando area drivers.

Top Five Intersections for Traffic Collisions. Topping the list of intersections with the most traffic collisions was Hubbard Ave./First St. with eight accidents, followed by seven accidents at Glenoaks Blvd./Maclay Ave., and three accidents each at the intersections of Truman St./Maclay Ave., Truman St./Brand Blvd. and Truman St./Wolfskill St. Maclay Ave. at First St. – historically a “top five” collision intersection – found itself off that list after the speed limit on Maclay Ave. was changed from 35 miles per hour to 15 miles per hour.

Arrests for Driving Under the Influence (DUI). Officers made 470 DUI arrests, which was 68 percent more than anticipated. This increase was due in part to numerous driver checkpoints funded by the California Office of Traffic Safety. An overwhelming majority of those arrested were ***not*** San Fernando residents.

Issued Moving Violations. Nearly 10,000 moving violation citations were issued, representing a 46 percent increase over a three-year average. The majority of those citations resulted from unlicensed or suspended drivers and consequential vehicle impounds. Nevertheless, area drivers boasted a 96 percent seatbelt compliance rate, which is higher than the statewide rate of 92 percent.

The full report can be downloaded from the City’s Web site: www.sfcity.org/trafficreport

- end -