



Traffic Safe Communities Network (TSCN) in Santa Clara County

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For Immediate Release:
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TSCN Co-Chairs:

- James T. Beall, Jr, Board of Supervisors
- Martin Fenstersheib, MD, MPH
Health Officer

TSCN Project Director:

- Guadalupe S. Olivas, PhD
Director, Public Health Department

TSCN Program Manager:

- Richard Nichols
Public Health Department

Work Group Co-Chairs:

Alcohol & Impaired Driving:

- Jackie Masso
Mothers Against Drunk Driving
- Sgt. Les Bishop
California Highway Patrol

Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety:

- Gladwyn d'Souza
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
- Ellen Corman
Stanford Trauma Services

Red Light Running:

- Lt. Mark Venable
Palo Alto PD
- Ananth Prasad
SCC Roads & Airports

Participating Agencies (partial listing):

Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC)
ALTRANS
American Medical Response (AMR)
Bicycle Solutions
California Highway Patrol
California State Automobile Assn.
Caltrans - Region 4
City of Campbell
City of Cupertino
City of Gilroy
City of Los Altos
City of Milpitas
City of Morgan Hill
City of Mountain View
City of Palo Alto
City of San Jose
City of Santa Clara
City of Sunnyvale
Drinker Drivers Program Assn.
Friday Night Live
Los Gatos/Monte Sereno PD
MADD Bay Area Chapter
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
NCADD in Silicon Valley
Palo Alto Area American Red Cross
Safe Kids Coalition
San Jose Medical Center Trauma Services
SCC Board of Supervisors
SCC Emergency Medical Services
SCC Office of District Attorney
SCC Probation Department
SCC Roads & Airports
SCC Sheriff's Office
SCC Superior Court
SCVMC Trauma Services
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
Stanford Trauma Services
State Farm Insurance
United Neighborhoods of SCC
Walk San Jose

DUI Trial at San Jose State University Gives Students a Sobering Look at the Consequences of Drinking and Driving

San Jose, CA - On Monday, October 17th, 2005, Superior Court Judge Teresa Guerrero-Daley will hold a DUI trial before approximately 150 college students in the Student Union Loma Prieta Room at San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

This is a criminal trial of a 21 year-old San Francisco man arrested earlier this year by San Jose Police at the corner of Santa Clara and Market Street. The defendant was allegedly drinking before his 11:30 p.m. arrest. A lab test conducted after his arrest indicated that the defendant's blood-alcohol level was 0.197 percent - twice the legal limit of 0.08 percent.

Following the trial, Judge Teresa Guerrero-Daley will make a brief presentation and co-facilitate an interactive discussion lesson. The intent is to allow for significant dialogue among the students, defendant, judge, attorneys, witnesses, law enforcement officers, faculty, and special guests about the legal consequences of drinking and driving.

"I hope that through observing a live DUI trial, students will think twice before drinking and driving. Too many lives have been lost in crashes that could have been prevented," added James T. Beall, Jr., Santa Clara County Supervisor and Traffic Safe Communities Network's Co-chair.

Conducting a DUI trial in a university setting is an innovative strategy to help reduce community alcohol problems, including motor vehicle crashes. Students will witness the legal consequences of drinking and driving, and learn about the defendant's arrest, jailing, public trial and, if convicted, the imposed fines and penalties. They will also have an opportunity to learn more about the judicial branch of government.

Judges struggle in their courtrooms daily with the individual and community problems created by DUI offenders. Many judges are looking for innovative ways to help reduce alcohol-related problems. This prevention program is designed to help students learn more about the choices they have for resisting alcohol industry, media, peer, and social pressures to drink.

Drinking and driving continues to be the leading cause of collisions resulting in injury or death. Statistics show that 3 out of 5 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related motor vehicle crash at some point in their lives. According to the California Highway patrol, from 2001 to 2003, 101 people were killed in alcohol-related crashes in Santa Clara County, which accounted for over 32% of the traffic fatalities that occurred during the three-year period. In 2003, there were almost 8,046 injury collisions. Of those, 9% had alcohol involved.

Developed by the Traffic Safe Communities Network in Santa Clara County, the program is a cooperative effort involving the Santa Clara County Public Health Department, Superior Court, Office of the District Attorney, Office of the Public Defender, California Highway Patrol and San Jose State University. Santa Clara was the first county in California to offer this kind of program. Other California counties are implementing similar programs. This program is funded by the Office of Traffic Safety through a grant from the California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.

MEDIA COVERAGE OF COURT PROCEEDINGS

Media organizations requesting permission to photograph, record, or broadcast (Rule 980) the San Jose State University DUI trial must submit the completed forms MC-500 and MC-510 at the Student Union Loma Prieta Room on Monday, October 17th, 2005. No flash photography will be permitted while the court is in session.