



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

PRESS RELEASE

11/10/17

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES GRANT TO ASSIST
PROSECUTION OF DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE**

District Attorney Tim Ward is pleased to announce the award of a \$153,620 California Office of Traffic Safety grant to help prosecute cases of driving under the influence. This highly competitive grant, named the Alcohol and Drug Impaired Driver Vertical Prosecution Program, will run through September of 2018 with the opportunity to re-apply.

The grant will fund a Vertical Prosecution team, primarily for felony DUI with injury cases, as well as attorney training. The Vertical Prosecution model allows a prosecutor to see the case through start to finish.

“Vertical prosecution teams working serious DUI cases get the positive results needed,” said OTS Director Rhonda Craft. “The Tulare County District Attorney’s Office, with assistance from the Office of Traffic Safety, will be working to help keep the streets across Tulare County safe for everyone.”

Filed cases of driving under the influence of drugs have increased 150% over the last two years, while filed cases of DUI with injury have increased since 2015. The office is currently prosecuting seven DUI homicide cases.

"We are very appreciative of the California Office of Traffic Safety and grateful for this grant," said District Attorney Tim Ward. "Inebriated, drunk, or high drivers put all of us at risk every time they get behind the wheel of a car. No one should be injured or lose their lives due to the reckless and risky behavior of a drunk driver. We look forward to continuing our focus of prosecuting this dangerous and avoidable crime."

The impact of driving under the influence on a community and victims is profound. The Office of the District Attorney and organizations like Mothers against Drunk Driving has sought to give victims a voice. “We are here to always remember those who are no longer with us and honor victim survivors whose lives have been forever changed,” said local MADD Victim Service Specialist Carla Pearson.

If you are a victim, contact the District Attorney’s Victim Services Division at 559-636-5471 for assistance and other support. If you witness or suspect DUI on the road, call 911 immediately.

*Media inquiries can be directed to the Office of the District Attorney, County of Tulare
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