



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 16, 2020**

ADA Jerry Stanley, (559) 600-3141, FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov

## **Fresno County District Attorney's Office Awarded DUI Prosecution Grant**

Fresno, Calif. – The Fresno County District Attorney's Office received a \$249,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for a special team to prosecute alcohol and drug-impaired driving cases.

"This funding gives us much-needed resources in our ongoing goal of reducing the tragic impacts inflicted upon the victims of impaired drivers, and of ensuring that those individuals who choose to drive impaired are brought to justice," Deputy District Attorney Steven Ueltzen said.

"If you drink or use drugs and decide to drive, you put lives at risk," OTS Director Barbara Rooney said. "This funding from the OTS makes sure that those who make the choice to drive under the influence are held accountable for their actions."

In addition to forming a special prosecution team, funding will be used to:

- Develop protocols for handling cases through every step of the criminal process.
- Provide training for prosecutors and investigators through California's Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Program.
- Host quarterly regional meetings with law enforcement partners to improve DUI investigations and prosecutions.

This is the seventeenth year that the Fresno County District Attorney's Office has received funding from the OTS for a DUI prosecution program. Last year, the prosecution team filed 152 DUI cases, including 25 DUI drug cases and 16 DUI combined alcohol and drug cases.

The grant program runs from Oct. 1, 2020 to Sept. 30, 2021.

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

