



Petaluma Police Department

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Advisory **Court sting conducted by Petaluma Police Department
targeting unlicensed drivers and drivers with
suspended driver's privileges**

PRESS RELEASE

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Issued By:

Sergeant Ron Klein, Petaluma PD, 707.778.4372, email: rklein@ci.petaluma.ca.us

**Petaluma Police Department Announce Results of
DUI Court Sting Operation**

On June 8, 2016 between the hours of 8:00am and 11:30am officers from the Petaluma Police Department assisted by Santa Rosa Motor Officers conducted an undercover 'Court Sting' operation at the Sonoma County Superior Court targeting suspected DUI drivers whose licenses were suspended/revoked or who were unlicensed drivers.

Police officers staked out offenders who had been told by a judge not to drive and/or who had been told of their license suspension. Over 30 offenders were followed by officers from courtrooms to their vehicles to ensure that they were not driving. While some offenders complied with the law and had alternate means of transportation, 2 individuals in court for DUI and previous license violations proceeded to get behind the wheel and drove away from the court house or surrounding areas.

Those who chose to drive were stopped by waiting officers. Among those stopped for driving while suspended or unlicensed then were cited back into court:

Lewis a 50 year old male from Rohnert Park was in court for a 2015 DUI arrest and also had a suspended driver's license from this DUI. was followed from the court room and seen by officers getting into a Toyota pickup and driving away from the court house. was stopped by police and admitted to knowing his license was suspended and had just come from court. He was issued a citation for driving on a suspended license.

Daniel a 38 year old male from Auburn was in court for a prior citation for driving on a suspended license. While in court was admonished by the judge 3 times to not drive. was followed by an officer who had been seated in the court room to a parking lot near Mendocino Ave. drove away in a Mazda Protégé and was stopped by a motor officer a short distance away. was cited for driving on a suspended drivers license and the vehicle which belonged to his mother was impounded for 30 days. During an impound search of the vehicle prescription medications which were not prescribed to and drug paraphernalia were located in the vehicle. He was issued a citation for these offenses as well.

Those arrested today could face additional jail time, long driver license suspensions, along with other financial hits including attorney fees, court costs, lost time at work, and the potential loss of job or job prospects. When family, friends and co-workers find out, violators can also face tremendous personal embarrassment and humiliation.

DUI Court Sting stakeout operations, along with regularly scheduled high visibility DUI enforcement, serve as a proven deterrent with the goal of keeping impaired drivers from the road and heightening awareness among the public of the dangers of driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

This special DUI operation was funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Please help Petaluma PD every day of the week: Report Drunk Drivers – Call 9-1-1!