



December 2, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAFETY GRANT

As part of our ongoing commitment to keep Baton Rouge as safe as possible, the Baton Rouge Police Department has begun deploying additional officers to conduct multiple surprise sobriety checkpoints and seat belt checks, with concentrated activity during the holiday season. The enforcement actions are made possible thanks to a grant from the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission (LHSC) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for occupant protection (seatbelt), impaired driving, underage drinking, and speeding enforcement.

Enforcement operations began on October 1, 2020 and will continue through September 30, 2021. The grant totals \$778,552.00. The money will be used to pay overtime to Baton Rouge Police officers in addition to the department's regular enforcement activities. Officers will be working an additional 17,659 hours of speed, seatbelt, and DWI enforcement throughout the year specifically focused on getting the dangerous drivers off the street.

"We understand the holidays and we also like to enjoy holidays and parties, but we want you to be safe! Plus, what you're going to pay for a cab ride or a ride share is the fraction of a cost of a DWI offense," said Chief of Police Murphy J. Paul, Jr.

The DWI checkpoints will be set up without warning and drivers who try to turn around to avoid them will be apprehended.

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