



CITY OF SAN BRUNO
POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

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U-DETER Program Planned at Capuchino High School

San Bruno, CA – On March 16th, Officers from the San Bruno Police Department will join forces with Capuchino High School Administration, the California Office of Traffic Safety and Mothers Against Drunk Driving, in an effort to deter students from driving while impaired.

Officials will be launching a new program they are calling “U-DETER”, an acronym for “Underage DUI Education Through Exposure to Repercussions”. This new program was developed by the San Bruno Police Department as part of their ongoing commitment to the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program through the California Office of Traffic Safety and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Appropriately, most underage DUI deterrence programs focus primarily on the likelihood of serious injury or death resulting from impaired driving. U-DETER is designed to complement these existing programs by focusing instead on the practical consequences of underage DUI arrest, while driving home the fact that apprehension is probable.

On March 16, 2016, Officers from the San Bruno Police Department will deliver a multi-media presentation to Capuchino High School students through the school’s closed circuit television system. This presentation will aim to educate students about: the scope of the underage DUI problem; statistical data regarding apprehension rates; underage DUI laws; common consequences of a DUI arrest; increased efforts and new tactics police are using to apprehend impaired drivers; and alternatives to driving while impaired. The presentation also makes students aware of the increased focus on drivers impaired by marijuana and other drugs.

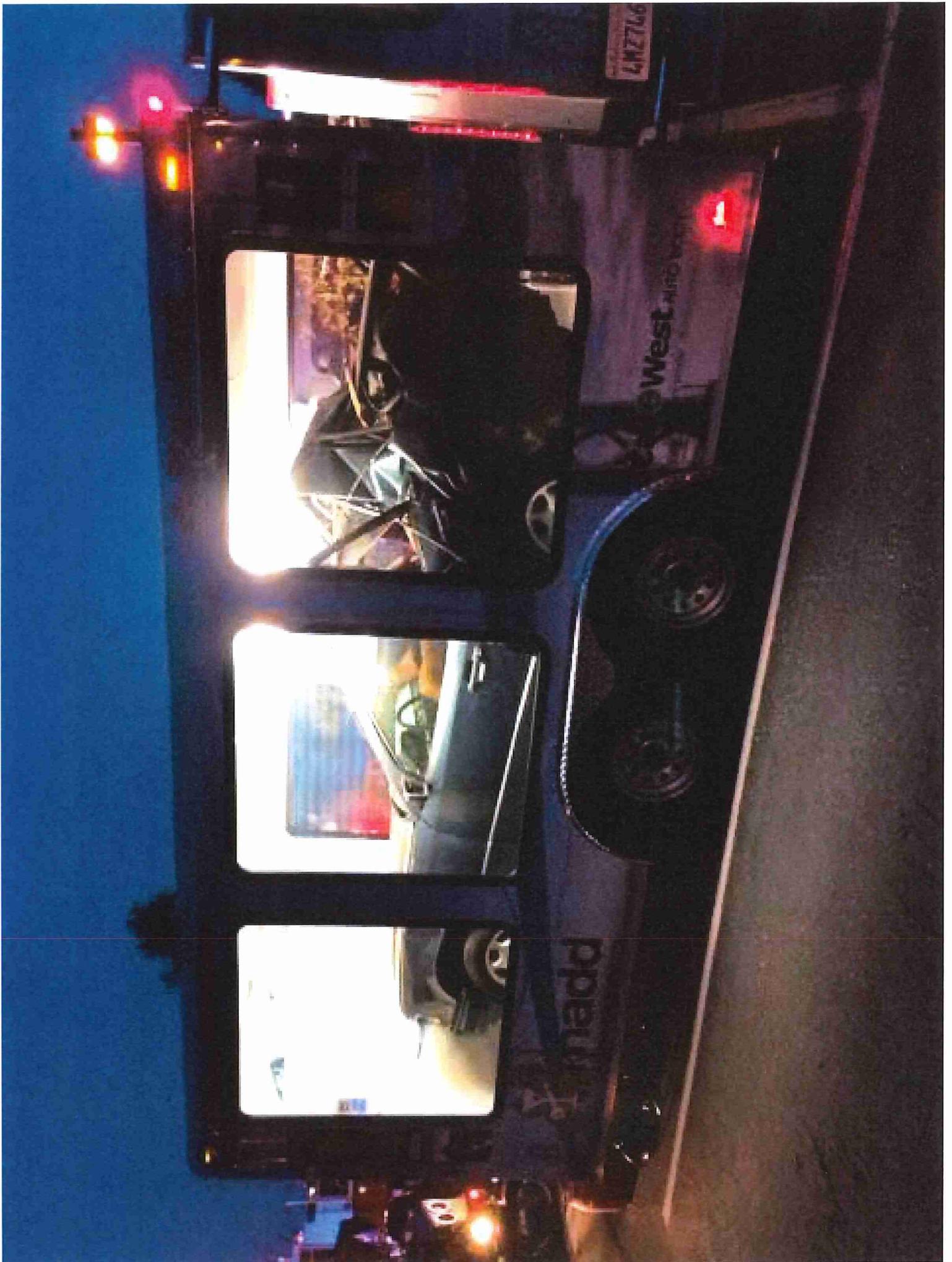
Following this brief presentation, students will have the opportunity to examine a severely damaged vehicle from a DUI collision in which a local student lost his life, provided by the San Francisco/Bay Area Chapter of MADD. A photo of the MADD trailer and the story of the victim are attached to this release. Students will also have the opportunity to attempt field sobriety tests while wearing specialized goggles that simulate various impairment levels and to experience alcohol breath testing equipment.

What makes U-DETER truly unique is that students will have the option to follow-up their learning by participating in a ride-along with a DUI Saturation Patrol Officer. This will give students the opportunity to experience first-hand some of the repercussions of a DUI arrest. Of course, participation in the ride-along portion requires parental permission and approval of the San Bruno Police Department. Ride-along participation will take place in the months that follow the presentation.

Nationally, the scope of the impaired driving problem is staggering with an average of 10,000 people killed every year. Each year, about 45% of these tragic victims are between the ages of 16 and 24. That's about 4,500 young people killed every year by this completely preventable crime.

In terms of apprehensions, about 1.5 million people in the United States are arrested for impaired driving annually. About 30% of those arrested are between 16 and 24 years old; that's about 450,000 young people arrested every year.

The consequences of an impaired driving arrest for young people are life-altering and can have a severely negative impact on their futures. U-DETER aims to make students acutely aware of those impacts and to expose students to their reality through first-hand experience.





Scott Leister,

a 21-year old college student from the San Francisco Bay Area, had been living his dream by working toward earning a medical degree to provide international humanitarian aid. His passion for service had already led him to plant trees to replace landmines in Vietnam, build homes for Haitian refugees and a dormitory for orphans in the Dominican Republic, set up a computer classroom in Cuba, and volunteer on other service projects in Ecuador, Costa Rica, Belize and Mexico. Just days before he died, he helped to build a Habitat for Humanity home in the Bay Area.

Scott's dream was thwarted when he was killed in a fiery crash on the San Francisco Bay Bridge at 2:20 AM on Sunday morning, August 17, while on his way home from an enjoyable evening with family and friends in San Francisco. A 22-year old man with a blood alcohol level over twice the legal limit, crashed his Subaru Impreza WRX, reported to be traveling over 110 MPH, into the back of the Mercedes E420 in which Scott was a rear-seat passenger, sending both cars careening out of control across all lanes.

The offender, who escaped his vehicle before it burst into flames, was sentenced to over 10 years in State prison, earning him a "1st strike" felony conviction and making him ineligible for parole until at least 85% of his sentence has been served. This was the offender's first DUI arrest.

At the sentencing hearing, Scott's mom voiced her hope that some day, instead of being paralyzed by their grief, they would be inspired by the way Scott lived his life, with passion and purpose. The MADD crash car trailer was born of that inspiration. The family hopes that, with each mile the trailer travels and each pair of eyes that sees it, Scott will continue to make a difference in the world by preventing future tragedies due to the decision to drink and then drive.