



San José Unified School District

For Immediate Release



**Traffic Safe Communities Network
(TSCN) in Santa Clara County**

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Real DUI Trial at Lincoln High School Gives Students a Sobering Look at the Consequences of Drinking and Driving

San Jose, CA - Thursday, October 26, 2006. Superior Court Judge Jerome Brock will hold a Driving Under the Influence (DUI) trial on Friday October 27, 2006, before approximately 170 students at Lincoln High School, 555 Dana Avenue, San Jose from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the school's Black Box Theater.

This is not a mock court, but rather an actual criminal trial of a 23 year-old San Jose man arrested on April 23, 2006, by California Highway Patrol in downtown San Jose. The defendant was allegedly drinking before his 1:40 a.m. arrest. A lab test conducted after his arrest indicated that the defendant's blood alcohol level was 0.15 percent - almost twice the legal limit of 0.08 percent.

Following the trial, Judge Jerome Brock will make a brief presentation and co-facilitate an interactive civics lesson. The intent is to allow for significant dialogue among the students, defendant, judge, attorneys, witnesses, law enforcement officers, teachers, and special guests.

"I hope that through observing a live DUI trial, students will think twice before drinking and driving. Too many lives have been lost in crashes that could have been prevented," states James Beall, Jr., a Santa Clara County Board Supervisor and Traffic Safe Communities Network's Co-chair; Beall will also make the opening remarks at the high school trial.

Conducting a real DUI trial in a high school setting is an innovative strategy to help reduce community alcohol problems, including motor vehicle crashes. Students will witness the legal consequences of drinking and driving, learn about the defendant's arrest, jailing, public trial and, if convicted, the imposed fines and penalties. They will also have an opportunity to learn more about the judicial branch of government.

Judges struggle in their courtrooms daily with individual and community problems created by DUI offenders. Many judges are looking for innovative ways to help reduce alcohol-related problems. This prevention program is designed to help students make more informed choices for resisting alcohol industry, media, peer, and social pressures to drink.

Recently, the American Medical Association reported that, underage drinking is a factor in

nearly half of all automobile crashes. Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control reported in a 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance that during the 30 days that preceded the survey, 9.9% of students in grades 9-12 nationwide had driven a car or other vehicle one or more times when they had been drinking.

Furthermore, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15-19 year olds - with the primary collision factor being alcohol. Statewide in 2004, there were 705 drivers age 15-20 involved in fatal collisions with some degree of impairment, of these drivers 19.4% had been drinking.

Lincoln High School is the nineteenth local high school to host an actual DUI trial since the inception of the program in 2001. The DUI Court in the Schools program was developed by Traffic Safe Communities Network in Santa Clara County and is a cooperative effort involving the Santa Clara County Public Health Department, Superior Court, Office of the District Attorney, Office of the Public Defender, and San Jose Unified School District. Santa Clara is the first county in California to offer this kind of program. This program is funded by the Office of Traffic Safety through a grant from the California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.

MEDIA COVERAGE OF COURT PROCEEDINGS

Media organizations requesting permission to photograph, record, or broadcast (Rule 980) the Lincoln High School trial must submit the completed forms MC-500 and MC-510 at the school's Black Box Theater on Friday, October 27, 2006. No flash photography will be permitted while the court is in session.

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