



*The Best of Oregon*

# CITY of BEAVERTON

## NEWS RELEASE

Media Relations

503-526-3737

publicinformation@BeavertonOregon.gov

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 9, 2016**

## **BEAVERTON RECEIVES AWARD FOR INNOVATIVE DUII PREVENTION PROGRAM -City Highlights National Impaired Driving Month with Specialty Court Training and BSOBR Graduation Ceremony -**

**BEAVERTON, Ore.** – On Thursday, Dec. 15, the Beaverton Sobriety Opportunity for Beginning Recovery (BSOBR) program will hold a special National Impaired Driving Prevention Month ceremony to recognize 10 program participants who have successfully completed the requirements of the court. Representatives from the National Center for DWI Courts (NCDC) and the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) will serve as keynote speakers at the ceremony and present the BSOBR program with the Community Transformation Award for its incredible success at reducing impaired driving, protecting public safety, and transforming lives.

“BSOBR continues to have a meaningful impact on our community,” said Mayor Denny Doyle. “It is amazing how this innovative and intense program changes people’s lives.”

Beaverton is one of only three courts in the state of Oregon that offers a program to address high risk and high needs repeat DUII (Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants) offenders.

The ceremony will follow a full day of law enforcement training on Wednesday, Dec. 14 designed to improve responses to impaired driving. Both events will be open to the press, and interviews are available upon request.

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2016

DUII Court Training: *The Role of Law Enforcement – A Team Approach*

8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Council Chambers

Beaverton Building

12725 SW Millikan Way, Beaverton, Or

Attendees will have the opportunity to hear about DUII court team concepts and structure; motivational interviewing; court reviews and home visits; effective strategies for law enforcement and probation in treatment court settings; and research and best practices to reduce DUII recidivism.

Guest speakers will include: Juliette Mackin, Co-president & Director of Quality and Training, Northwest Professional Consortium Research; Caesar Cisneros, Deputy, Orange County DUII Academy Court; Ben Wyatt, MA, CADC III; and Vanessa Price, Director, National Drug Court Institute.

BSOBR Graduation Ceremony:

Thursday, Dec. 15

2 to 4:30 p.m.  
Courtroom B  
Griffith Drive Building  
4755 SW Griffith Drive, Beaverton, Or

Presiding Judge John Mercer and the BSOBR DUII court team will honor 10 graduates who have successfully completed the BSOBR program. NCDC has partnered with the Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility to expand DUII courts across the United States and is highlighting their importance throughout December, which is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month. As part of this effort, NCDC Director James Eberspacher will provide commencement remarks, and former “West Wing” actress and NADCP Senior Director Melissa Fitzgerald will present the BSOBR program with the Community Transformation Award, the organization’s highest honor bestowed on individual court programs.

The BSOBR program has produced remarkable success. In fact, 93.5 percent of BSOBR graduates have not been rearrested for DUII.

“The BSOBR program’s success in reducing recidivism when it comes to impaired driving means that it is not only one of the most effective treatment courts in the United States, but also one of the most effective criminal justice interventions in existence,” says Eberspacher. “During Impaired Driving Prevention Month, this is exactly the type of program we want to put in the national spotlight.”

DUII costs millions of dollars to the state each year. Beaverton has three major highways through the city, leaving many Oregonians commuting through or living in the area at risk. BSOBR focuses on offenders with multiple convictions and those with a blood alcohol content of 0.15 (nearly twice the legal limit of .08) or higher. Beaverton Municipal Court processes approximately 400 DUII cases annually.

In 2015, the program was awarded two grants totaling \$613,500—the State of Oregon’s Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) awarded a \$288,750 Specialty Court Grant covering a two-year period (2015-17), and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration awarded a \$324,750 grant to be disbursed over three years (2015-2018). For the past year, the Portland Area Canine Therapy Teams (PACTT), a partnership between DoveLewis and Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB), has volunteered two therapy teams to attend court hearings with BSOBR participants. Highly trained retired and career-change dogs from GDB and their handlers undergo extensive training and assessment through DoveLewis and GDB to complete their certification in animal-assisted therapy. The dogs help provide comfort to and relieve stress for participants. PACTT has 50 certified teams that have logged more than 3,500 volunteer hours in 70 facilities.

For more information, reminders and community news, visit [www.BeavertonOregon.gov](http://www.BeavertonOregon.gov). Also follow Beaverton on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CityofBeaverton](http://www.facebook.com/CityofBeaverton), or Twitter at [www.twitter.com/CityofBeaverton](http://www.twitter.com/CityofBeaverton).

###