

New App to Locate DUI Checkpoints

Does it Discourage Drinking and Driving or Facilitate Abusers?

Has anyone heard about this? At first I thought it was a joke. Apparently it's not.

There's a new iPhone app called DUI Dodger; it was released on April 7. Guess what one of its functions is? As the name implies, this little program will help drivers locate the nearest sobriety checkpoint — presumably so they can avoid it.

I don't know about you, but that sounds like the beginning of a very bad story to me.

To be fair, the application has other uses, such as estimating your blood-alcohol level (based on your size and the number of drinks consumed) and checking to see if you can walk the line — the age-old sobriety field-test. But the most controversial part of the application is definitely the "DUI Checkpoint Finder," which locates current police checkpoints within 50 miles of the user and pinpoints them on a map.



This is how the company press release describes the feature:

In some states, DUI checkpoints are more rampant than ever. Fight back with DUI Dodger, the app that allows you to view and submit DUI checkpoints in your area. The idea is that information is power, and people will be less inclined to drink and drive if they know that there is a checkpoint in their area, that they are drunk, and that driving drunk carries major consequences.

Doesn't that strike you as just a little disingenuous? Some people might be persuaded by that information to stay sober or stay home, but others might be inclined to drink, use the app to plan their trip home, or to the next bar,

avoiding the safety check points. The Coconut Telegraph always supports responsible driving and recommends Mom's Taxi, call 305-852-6000, when drinking.

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