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ABC Agents Arrest Two in Ventura
Arrests Made for Furnishing Alcohol to Minors

(Ventura) – Agents from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) arrested two individuals on July 23, 2014, during a Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation in the City of Ventura.

The Decoy Shoulder Tap program targets adults who purchase alcohol for people under 21 years old. Under the program, a minor under the direct supervision of a peace officer will stand outside a liquor or convenience store and ask patrons to buy them alcohol. The minor indicates in some way he or she is underage and cannot purchase the alcohol.

If the adults agree to purchase alcohol for the minor, officers then arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1,000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

The program is intended to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Statistics show minors generally have a higher rate of drunken driving crashes than adults. Studies also show the combination of alcohol and youth tends to increase criminal conduct. According to the American Medical Association, underage drinking can increase chances of risky sexual behavior and teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, compromise health, and result in unintentional injury and death.

During the operation, 39 adults were contacted by minor decoys and two agreed to illegally buy alcohol for the minor decoys. The two suspects were arrested and cited for furnishing alcoholic beverages to a minor. One suspect was also cited for driving on a revoked license.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

ABC is a department of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency.