

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL3927 Lennane Drive, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95834CONTACT: John Carr
(916) 419-2525September 2, 2016
PR 16-17**Berkeley Police, ABC and Local Law Enforcement Issue over 500 Citations**
Agencies Pool Resources during Rush Week Activities to Increase Safety

BERKELEY -- Berkeley Police, University of California Berkeley Police, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and 12 other law enforcement agencies issued 551 alcohol-related citations and made 17 arrests over the last two weekends of August in areas south of the University of California Berkeley campus. The two weekend operation was funded through an ABC grant and focused on safety throughout the community during the beginning of the school year through enforcement of alcoholic beverage laws.

The law enforcement agencies are hoping the enforcement effort will raise awareness about the dangers of underage drinking, drinking and driving and the penalties associated with alcohol-related violations. Many of the citations involved open containers, minors in possession of alcohol, fake identifications and furnishing alcohol to minors. The 17 arrests were for suspicion of public intoxication, armed robbery, assault with a deadly weapon and petty theft.

The number of citations issued was higher this year for open containers, minors in possession of alcohol and furnishing alcohol to minors. Punishment for those citations could include fines or community service, or even loss of driving privileges for up to a year. The Berkeley Police and UC Berkeley Police were awarded a \$95,200 ABC grant to address alcohol-related crime in the community. The grant money helped pay for the operation.

Officer support came from the Watsonville, Folsom, Placerville, Richmond, Fresno, San Rafael and Stockton police departments, Central Marin Police Authority, Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety, Alameda and Nevada counties' sheriff's offices, and the California Highway Patrol. The agencies' focused enforcement on alcohol-related offenses including driving under the influence.

“Hopefully, some of these arrests were made before some had the opportunity to get behind the wheel of a car and go from misdemeanor arrests to felony arrests after injuring someone”, said Berkeley Police Public Information Officer Andrew Frankel.

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