

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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San Diego County Sheriff's Department Receives the ABC Significant Achievement Award
Agency is recognized for grant project aimed at reducing alcohol-related crime

The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Acting Director Ramona Prieto announced today that the San Diego County Sheriff's Department has been selected to receive the Significant Achievement Award from the ABC for their work in battling alcohol-related crime through the ABC Grant Assistance Program (GAP).

The grant to San Diego County resulted in 520 arrests, increased visits to ABC licensed businesses, close work with ABC on multiple cases and a stronger bond between citizens in the community and law enforcement.

Acting Director Prieto said "The San Diego County Sheriff's Department did important work increasing protection for youth, addressing concerns brought to them from the community and sending a message to problem locations that they need to do a better job of complying with alcoholic beverage laws".

The grant was one of nearly 50 awarded in California to local law enforcement agencies through ABC's Grant Assistance Program (GAP).

The grant program has helped strengthen local law enforcement efforts by combining the efforts of local police officers and ABC agents. ABC agents have expertise in alcoholic beverage laws and help communities reduce alcohol-related problems.

"The program improves the quality of life in neighborhoods," said Acting Director Prieto. "There can be a real positive impact on the communities where the grant program resources have been invested."

The GAP Program was created in 1995 to strengthen partnerships between ABC and local law enforcement agencies. The program is designed to put bad operators out of business, keep alcohol away from minors and bring penalties such as fines, suspensions or revocations against businesses that violate the law.

ABC continues to safeguard communities, while regulating the alcoholic beverage industry, through effective education and prevention, licensing, and enforcement. The grant funds were used to reduce the number of alcoholic beverage sales to minors, obviously intoxicated patrons, and to reduce other criminal activities such as the sale and possession of illegal drugs.

The GAP Program has distributed over \$46 million to local law enforcement to combat alcohol-related crime. ABC is a Department of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency.