

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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Fresno Police Department Receives the ABC Significant Achievement Award*Police Department is recognized for work during grant project aimed at reducing alcohol-related crime*

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

The ABC GAP grant awarded to the Fresno Police Department resulted in 172 arrests, increased visits to ABC licensed businesses and a stronger bond between citizens in the community and law enforcement. The City of Fresno is tasked with monitoring over 1000 licensed premises. Over the past year, Detective Janette Olson and ABC Gap Agent Lori Kohman have had the responsibility of addressing problematic locations throughout the city.

Together they have addressed on-going condition violations such as noise or litter problems, excessive calls for service, sales of alcohol to minors, open containers, drinking in public, violations involving local code enforcement regulations and problems such as allowing patrons to loiter and consume alcohol in an area where they are not allowed to.

ABC Director Ramona Prieto said “The Fresno Police 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 Fresno Police grant was one of nearly 50 awarded in California to local law enforcement agencies through ABC’s GAP program.

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 ABC Acting Director Ramona 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.

The funds were used to reduce the number of alcoholic beverage sales to minors, obviously intoxicated patrons, illegal solicitations of alcohol, and 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. For more information on GAP and other ABC programs visit <http://www.abc.ca.gov/>. ABC is a Department of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency. #