

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL3927 Lennane Drive, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95834**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****CONTACT:** John Carr
Phone: 916-826-8287March 11, 2016
PR 16-3**ABC to Coordinate Statewide Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation***ABC will join dozens of local law enforcement agencies to arrest those who buy alcohol for minors*

(California) - Agents from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and Officers from possibly as many as 100 local Police and Sheriff's Departments will join forces throughout California in a Statewide Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation on Saturday, March 12, 2016. The operation is being conducted to help reduce youth access to alcohol and also make the streets safer.

Last year 432 citations and arrests were made during a statewide effort on March 14, 2015. Most individuals were cited for furnishing alcoholic beverages to minors, however, there were some cited for open containers, false identification and other violations. In addition 22 individuals were arrested for crimes such as possession of illegal drugs, public drunkenness, parole violations and outstanding warrants.

This year ABC agents and local law enforcement will again conduct a program called a Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation which can lead to the arrest of 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 \$1000 fine and 24 hours of community service. The program is intended to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors.

Many local operations are funded by the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control through the Department's Grant Assistance Program (GAP), and some are funded by 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.

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