

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**Long Beach Police Department Receives the ABC Significant Achievement Award**
Agency is recognized for grant project aimed at reducing alcohol-related crime

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

The grant resulted in 70 arrests, multiple undercover operations, underage drinking enforcement operations, numerous Informed Merchants Preventing Alcohol Crime Tendencies (IMPACT) inspections, increased visits to ABC licensed businesses, and a stronger bond between citizens in the community and law enforcement.

ABC Director Ramona Prieto said “The Long Beach 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 grant was one of nearly 50 awarded in California to local law enforcement agencies through ABC’s Grant Assistance Program (GAP). The program has helped strengthen local law enforcement by combining the efforts of local police officers and ABC agents. ABC agents have expertise in alcoholic beverage laws and help communities try to 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. Funds are 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 help increase compliance with alcoholic beverage laws. ABC is a Department of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency.