

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

3927 Lennane Drive, Suite 100

Sacramento, California, 95834

Contact: John Carr (916) 419-2525

John.carr@abc.ca.govFollow ABC on TWITTER [@CA_ABC](#)

PR 16-33

December 20, 2016

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

(Kern County) - ABC Acting Director Ramona Prieto announced today that the Kern County Sheriff's Department has been selected to receive the Significant Achievement Award from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) for their work in helping to reduce youth access to alcohol and alcohol-related harm through the ABC Grant Assistance Program (GAP).

The Kern County Sheriff's Department went well above and beyond their grant project goals. The grant resulted in 213 citations and arrests and over 100 enforcement operations including underage drinking enforcement and prevention efforts, Informed Merchants Preventing Alcohol Crime Tendencies (IMPACT) inspections and increased visits to ABC licensed businesses which builds a stronger working relationships between business, citizens in the community and law enforcement.

ABC Acting Director Ramona Prieto said "The Kern 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 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 with a goal to help communities reduce alcohol-related harm.

"ABC is proud to work with all allied agencies throughout the State to provide education about alcohol-related laws and also the enforcement of those laws, said Acting Director Prieto. The GAP program improves the quality of life in neighborhoods and there can be a real positive impact on the communities where the grant program resources have been invested."

The GAP Program was created to strengthen partnerships between ABC and local law enforcement agencies. The program is also designed to educate licensees and communities about the need for compliance with alcoholic beverage laws and also help with enforcement in order to increase public safety.

Program funds are used to try 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.

Since 1995 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. For more information about today's award contact Josh Porter in the ABC Bakersfield office at 661-395-2731 or 661-395-2732.