

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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PR 17- 20

May 23, 2017



California Alcoholic Beverage Control Agents will be out Memorial Day Weekend

Agents will work with Local Law Enforcement to Increase Public Safety

SACRAMENTO – The California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) today announced it will have agents out ensuring public safety through enforcement of alcoholic beverage laws on Memorial Day weekend in communities throughout California. ABC Agents will visit both ABC licensed businesses and large venues to prevent disorderly activity and reduce alcohol service to obviously intoxicated patrons and persons under 21 years-old.

ABC reminds anyone of legal drinking age to designate a non-drinking driver before any celebrations where alcohol is involved. Along with enforcement efforts, ABC relies on all licensees to follow the law.

“Improving overall safety in communities is a goal of the ABC,” says ABC Acting Director Ramona Prieto. “In addition to an increased law enforcement presence, citizens can do their part to keep everyone safe by planning to take alternative transportation to get home safely following celebrations involving alcohol.”

In addition to ABC’s education, prevention, and enforcement efforts, other law enforcement agencies throughout California will be looking for signs of alcohol and/or drug impairment. Specially trained allied law enforcement officers will be out to evaluate those suspected of drug-impaired driving, which now accounts for a growing number of impaired driving collisions.

The California ABC supports a new effort by the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) that aims to educate all drivers that “Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Doesn’t Just Mean Booze.” If you take prescription drugs, particularly those with a driving or operating machinery warning on the label, you might be impaired enough to get a DUI. Marijuana can also be impairing, especially in combination with alcohol or other drugs, and can result in a DUI.

The California Office of Traffic Safety DDVIP (Designated Driver VIP) mobile app is available for free download on iOS and Android devices. The DDVIP app offers to “Map a Spot” with their current location to find DDVIP partnering establishments in their area or a “List of Spots” to search all participating bars and restaurants throughout California. Also through the app, for those who want to make it a point to plan ahead, users can easily order a sober ride. Memorial Day enforcement operations are funded by the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

ABC protects communities through education and by administering prevention and enforcement programs designed to increase compliance with California’s alcoholic beverage laws. ABC licensees and their employees are encouraged to take ABC’s free four hour LEAD training classes to help achieve higher compliance with alcoholic beverage laws. LEAD stands for Licensee Education on Alcohol and Drugs.

ABC’s mission is to provide the highest level of service and public safety to the people of the State through licensing, education and enforcement. To learn more about ABC programs that help protect communities, prevent alcohol-related harm and save lives visit https://www.abc.ca.gov/programs/programs_PE.html. ABC is a Department of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency.

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