

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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**ABC, AZUSA POLICE RUN MINOR DECOY OPERATION**

*Twelve Businesses Checked, Not One Sells to the Minor*

**CITY OF AZUSA** – Investigators of the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) El Monte District Office, in cooperation with the Azusa Police Department, conducted a compliance check operation in which minors under the direct supervision of the investigators, attempted to purchase alcohol from 12 retail licensees in the City of Azusa, California. No violations occurred.

As the holiday season soon approaches, ABC and Azusa Police are working in the community and trying to reduce the sale of alcohol to minors through compliance check operations known as Minor Decoy Operations. The Minor Decoy Operation is an effective tool that increases public safety and awareness. ABC is conducting the compliance checks state-wide to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors

Minor Decoy Operations have been conducted by local law enforcement throughout the state since the 1980's. When the program first began, the violation rate of retail establishments selling to minors was as high as 40 to 50 percent. When conducted on a routine basis, the rate has dropped in some cities as low as 10 percent or even below. The latest violation rate state-wide is below 16 percent.

In 1994, the California Supreme Court ruled unanimously that use of underage decoys is a valid tool of law enforcement to ensure that liquor licensees are complying with the law.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.