

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

3927 Lennane Drive, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95834  
(916) 419-2510



CONTACT: John Carr  
(916) 419-2525

November 22, 2005  
PR 05-126

**ABC AND MANTECA POLICE CITE CLERKS FOR SELLING ALCOHOL TO MINORS**

**(MANTECA)** – On Saturday, November 19, 2005, the Manteca Police Department in conjunction with the Lathrop Police Department and the Department of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC), conducted a minor decoy operation.

Three decoys participated in the operation in which minors, under direct supervision of Police Officers and ABC Investigators, attempted to purchase alcohol from ABC licensed businesses. The decoys entered establishments in the cities of Manteca and Lathrop and the outlying areas. 11 establishments sold alcohol to the minor decoys. Seven were in Manteca, three in Lathrop and one in Ripon.

Those who sold to the minor face a minimum fine of \$250, and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, ABC will take administrative action against the business's liquor license. That may include a fine, a suspension of the liquor license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

ABC is conducting the compliance checks state-wide to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Young people under the age of 21 have a higher rate of drunk driving fatalities than the general adult population.

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.

If you have any questions please call Sergeant Charlie Goeken (209) 239-8413.