

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: John Carr (916) 419-2525

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY ENFORCEMENT NETS 45 ARRESTS IN CHICO

ABC HELPS LOCAL POLICE WITH ALCOHOL-RELATED PROBLEMS

CHICO— The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) today announced that St. Patrick's Day enforcement efforts in Chico resulted in 45 arrests that included five adults who purchased and furnished alcohol to minors. Investigators also worked with a minor decoy who was able to purchase alcohol from six separate businesses.

ABC used money from three separate grants funded by the California Office of Traffic Safety to pay for most of the enforcement operations. The department utilized a \$360,000 Special Events Grant, a Minor Decoy Grant and a Shoulder Tap Grant. The grants were awarded to the ABC to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors.

"ABC Investigators and many law enforcement officers from local agencies did a terrific job last night," said ABC Director Jerry Jolly. "With a continued effort we can reduce the number of alcohol violations and make the community safer."

ABC investigators worked closely with Chico Police, California State University Chico Police, Butte County Sheriff's Deputies and Glenn County Sheriff's Deputies. Investigators issued citations for various alcohol-related charges including sales of illegal narcotics, minors in possession of alcohol, sales to minors, public drunkenness and furnishing alcohol to minors. The ABC also assisted with numerous other arrests made by police.

ABC used a Minor Decoy Operation. These operations are compliance checks in which a minor under the direct supervision of the investigators, attempt to purchase alcohol from licensees.

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 drunken driving fatalities than the general adult population.

ABC Investigators and local law enforcement also conducted a program called a Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation which targets adults who purchase alcohol for people less than 21 years of age. Under the program, a minor under the direct supervision of a peace officer will stand outside a liquor or convenience store and ask patrons to buy them alcohol. The minor indicates in some way he or she is underage and cannot purchase the alcohol.

If the adults comply, investigators then arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

There are many large events held in California each year and the majority are tied to holidays or traditional celebrations such as St. Patrick's Day. The ABC will continue to work with local police, colleges, community-based organizations and youth organizations such as Friday Night Live and the Youth Leadership Institute to crack down on underage drinking.

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.