

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TWO ARRESTED AS ABC TARGETS ADULTS WHO FURNISH ALCOHOL TO MINORS

(San Diego County) - Investigators from the San Marcos District Office of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) arrested two suspects Thursday night, July 7, 2005 in Vista for furnishing alcoholic beverages to minors.

The investigators conducted a program called a Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation which targets adults who purchase alcohol for people under 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. During the Thursday night operation, contact was made with 11 different individuals and two of those individuals purchased alcohol for the minor decoy.

Investigators arrested the two individuals and cited them for furnishing alcohol to the minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1,000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

The program is intended to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors who have a higher rate of drunken driving crashes than adults in general. The combination of alcohol and youth also tends to increase criminal conduct among the young. According to the American Medical Association, underage drinking can increase chances of risky sexual behavior and teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, compromise health, and result in unintentional injury and death.

For more information on the operation, contact the ABC District Administrator Robin Van Dyke at (760) 471-4237.

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.