

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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August 31, 2005
PR 05-89

ABC & CHP CAR CRASH INVESTIGATION LEADS TO CRIMINAL CHARGES FILED BY THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

(San Jose) - The Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office has filed multiple charges in Superior Court against two individuals identified in a two month long Target Responsibility for Alcohol Connected Emergencies (TRACE) investigation conducted by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC).

Misdemeanor charges were filed against 21 year old Ryan James Embry and 18 year old Matthew Lawrence Baptista for furnishing alcoholic beverages to minors, a violation of Section 25658(a) of the Business and Professions Code.

The charges were filed after a major injury crash on Memorial Day weekend.

Working with the California Highway Patrol (CHP), an ABC Investigator from the San Jose District Office conducted the TRACE investigation after receiving a report from the CHP and analysis of a car crash that occurred on May 29, 2005.

A CHP officer noticed alcohol at the scene of the crash and contacted ABC. ABC immediately began a TRACE investigation.

The investigation revealed that 21 year old Ryan James Embry had purchased a keg of beer and furnished the keg to Matthew Lawrence Baptista. Baptista later furnished some of the beer to other minors. Baptista was later involved in a crash on Highway 85 within the city of San Jose. The crash caused major injuries to a passenger of the vehicle, a 16 year old female juvenile. Three other passengers of the vehicle, all minors, sustained minor injuries. Baptista was arrested that night on charges of 23153(a) VC – Felony driving under the influence of alcohol.

The TRACE (Targeting Responsibility for Alcohol Connected Emergencies) program is made possible by a California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) grant to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. The grant provides funding for in-depth ABC investigations of serious incidents including car crashes, but also alcohol overdoses, poisonings, assaults that result from alcohol consumption by minors.

For more information contact ABC Supervising Investigator Summer Robertson in San Jose at 1-408-277-1200.