

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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



CONTACT: John Carr
(916) 419-2525

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ABC Investigators Check Nine Businesses and Five Sell Alcohol to Minors

Lakewood - Investigators of the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) cited five individuals for selling alcohol to a minor on Monday, December 29, 2008 during a minor decoy enforcement operation. The actions were the result of a compliance check operation in which minors under the direct supervision of investigators, attempted to purchase alcohol from nine retail licensees in the city of Gardena. Five locations sold alcohol to minors.

Those who sold to a 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 licenses of the locations where alcohol was sold to a minor. That may include a fine, a suspension of the license or the permanent revocation of the license.

ABC is conducting the compliance checks statewide 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. 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.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Agency Secretary Dale E. Bonner, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.