

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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April 13, 2009

PR 09-18

Thirty-One Adults Say No to Minors in Police Operation

Officers Conduct a Shoulder Tap Operation and No Adults Purchased Alcohol for Minors

(PISMO BEACH) – Investigators from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and Officers from the Pismo Beach Police Department made no arrests on April 10, 2009, during a Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation in the City of Pismo Beach. Decoys approached thirty-one adults outside convenience stores and all of the adults refused to buy alcohol for the decoy.

“This is the kind of compliance we want to see throughout California,” said Assistant Director Joe Cruz. “The timing is excellent considering we are rapidly approaching prom and graduation season. It’s important that all of us do what we can to keep young persons safe,” Cruz said.

ABC Investigators and local law enforcement conducted a program called a Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation which holds adults accountable if they 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 agree to purchase alcohol for the minor, 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.

The program is intended to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Statistics show they generally have a higher rate of drunken driving crashes than adults. Studies also show the combination of alcohol and youth tends to increase criminal conduct. 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.

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