

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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Three Arrested During ABC, San Luis Obispo Police Operation

(SAN LUIS OBISPO) – Investigators from the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and Officers from the San Luis Obispo Police Department arrested three suspects on June 12, 2009 during a Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation in the City of San Luis Obispo.

The Decoy Shoulder Tap program holds accountable those 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 purchase the alcohol for the minor, the peace officers arrest and cite 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. 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.

During the operation, twenty-nine adults were contacted by a minor decoy and three agreed to illegally buy alcohol for the minor decoy.

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.