

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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May 24, 2004

PR 4-20

ABC TARGETS ADULTS WHO FURNISH ALCOHOL TO MINORS

Investigators from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and Officers from the Hayward Police Department arrested a total of six (6) suspects yesterday in the City of Hayward for furnishing alcoholic beverages to minors.

The program is 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 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 comply, officers then arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to a minor. The State Legislature recently increased the penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor from a \$250 fine to a minimum \$1,000 fine, and 24 hours of community service.

The program is designed to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. According to the American Medical Association, underage drinking can physically damage the brain; interfere with mental and social development; interrupt academic progress; increase chances of risky sexual behavior and teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, and crime; compromise health; and result in unintentional injury and death. Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety.

For more information on the operation, contact the district administrator or district supervisor at (510-622-4970).