

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**ABC INVESTIGATORS TEAM WITH BERKELEY POLICE TO CRACKDOWN
ON ALCOHOL-RELATED CRIMES**

Last night investigators from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and Berkeley Police Department arrested 20 people for a wide variety of alcohol and drug violations. Many of those arrested were persons under the age of 21.

ABC Investigators from the departments' Special Operations Unit (SOU) and Grant Assistance Program (GAP) teamed with Berkeley Police to make the arrests in a continuing effort to address problems related to underage drinking. Officers cited five minors for possessing fake identifications, two minors in possession of alcohol and one minor for furnishing alcohol to other minors. Two adults were cited for possession of marijuana and one adult was arrested for selling marijuana. The SOU is made up of a team of specially trained investigators assigned to both of ABC's Northern and Southern Division offices. GAP is an ABC program that pairs department investigators with local police to address alcohol related crimes.

ABC Director Jerry Jolly says one of the primary goals of the department is to work with local law enforcement agencies to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. "We must continue sending the message that it is against the law for anyone to furnish alcohol to minors and it is illegal for minors to be in possession of alcohol." Jolly said last night's operation was just one example of the ongoing partnership between ABC, local authorities and the University of California targeting crime problems related to underage drinking.

ABC investigators said most of the arrests were made in a business district that encompassed several blocks just off the University of California Berkeley Campus. There were a total of 23 violations of the law.

Funding for the enforcement activity was made possible by a grant from the Governor's Office of Traffic Safety through the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.