

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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ABC ARRESTS TWO SUSPECTS FOR FURNISHING ALCOHOL TO MINORS

ALTADENA - Investigators from the El Monte office of the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) arrested two suspects Thursday night, November 18 in the city of Altadena for furnishing alcoholic beverages to minors. One of the suspects was also arrested for outstanding warrants totaling \$65,000.

In conjunction with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, investigators conducted a program 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 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 comply, investigators then arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to a minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$250 dollar 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.

For more information on the operation, contact the district administrator or district supervisor at (626)927-1060.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.