

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC ARRESTS FOUR FOR ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS IN SAN JOSE**Operation is part of a CHP lead coalition to address Underage Drinking Problems**

(San Jose) – California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) investigators arrested four persons for under-age drinking violations during a law enforcement operation in San Jose Tuesday night, December 14, 2004. ABC investigators arrested three persons for furnishing alcohol to minors and one person for selling alcohol to a minor.

The ABC used six investigators and checked 14 different businesses. Investigators used Minor Decoy and Decoy Shoulder Tap Operations. Under the Minor Decoy Operation, a minor under the direct supervision of the investigators, attempts to purchase alcohol from retail licensees. Tuesday night, one store sold to a minor during a Minor Decoy Operation. The Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation netted three arrests for individuals who furnished alcohol to a minor. The Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation targets 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 comply, investigators then arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$250 fine and 24 hours of community service. In addition, ABC will take administrative action against the business's liquor license. That may include a fine, a suspension of the liquor license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

The actions were the result of a CHP College Corridor Grant Program. The program is a unified effort between the CHP, ABC, University Police and local police entitled "CAMPUS" (Combined Alcohol Awareness Measures to Protect University Students). This program is funded by the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) through the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. The OTS grant money helps ABC, University Police on the campuses of San Jose State and Fresno State, along with the CHP and local law enforcement conduct additional compliance checks in the cities of Fresno and San Jose on top of normal enforcement activities. When conducted on a routine basis, the violation rate of local establishments has dropped in some cities as low as 10 percent or even below. The latest violation rate state-wide is almost 24 percent, or nearly one in five retail licensees selling to minors.

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