

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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October 29, 2005  
PR #05-114

**THREE ARRESTED, 15 OTHERS CITED BY ABC INVESTIGATORS AND LOCAL POLICE**

Investigators from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and Sacramento Police Officers arrested three people and cited 16 others in an undercover decoy operation targeting sales of alcoholic beverages to minors. 40 patrons were asked at several Sacramento area liquor stores to purchase alcohol for a minor on Friday, October 28, 2005 during a Shoulder Tap Decoy Operation in the city of Sacramento. 11 adults agreed to purchase alcohol for the minor, one of them was arrested for stealing the decoy's money. Two individuals were cited for open container violations, three minors were cited for either attempting to purchase alcohol or were in possession of alcohol, one adult was arrested for prostitution and one was arrested on a felony warrant.

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 alcoholic beverages. The minor indicates in some way that he or she is underage and cannot purchase the alcoholic beverage.

If the adults purchase alcohol for the minor, Investigators arrest and cite them for furnishing alcoholic beverages 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 alcoholic beverages to minors, who have a higher rate of drunken driving crashes than adults in general. According to the American Medical Association, underage drinking increases incidences of risky sexual behavior and teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, compromises health, and results in unintentional injury and death.

The program was funded through a \$100,000 grant from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. 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.

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