

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER DOUBLES FUNDING FOR GRANT PROGRAM TO FIGHT ALCOHOL-RELATED CRIME

\$3 million is being distributed to 41 local law enforcement agencies

Los Angeles – California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Director Jerry Jolly announced today that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has budgeted \$3 million this year for a grant program to help ABC and 41 local law enforcement agencies fight alcohol-related crime in California.

“This is double the amount of money we spent on this program last year because it is so important to increase protection for youth and to shut down problem locations that have contributed to an increase in crime,” ABC Director Jolly said.

ABC will administer 41 grants to local police and sheriff’s departments through its Grant Assistance Program (GAP).

The Los Angeles Police Department and Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department have had success with the grant program.

“The program increases protections for youth and improves the quality of life in Los Angeles neighborhoods,” said Los Angeles Police Chief William Bratton. Under the GAP Program, the Los Angeles Police Department made over 1500 arrests, helped shut down eight ABC licensed locations, and fined violators over \$500,000 since July 1, 2005. Since 1995, the Los Angeles Police Department has closed 84 problem locations in the city under the GAP grant program.

“We’ve seen a real difference in the communities where the grant program resources have been invested,” said Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca. Last year the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department arrested 958 people in over 440 operations as a result of the grant.

The GAP Program was created in 1995 to strengthen partnerships between ABC and local law enforcement agencies in order to put bad operators out of business, keep alcohol away from minors and bring penalties such as fines, suspensions or revocations against businesses that violate the law.

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The funds will be used to reduce the number of alcohol sales to minors, obviously intoxicated patrons, illegal solicitations of alcohol, and other criminal activities such as illegal drugs.

ABC Director Jerry Jolly said, “The Governor’s leadership on this issue means so much to this State because too many young people are killed in alcohol-related crashes every year. If we can limit youth access to alcohol then we can save lives and strengthen communities”. The GAP Program has distributed over \$17.5 million to local law enforcement to combat alcohol-related crime.

For a list of grant agencies, go to the ABC web site at www.abc.ca.gov, and click on ABC Special Programs.