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PR #06-85**ABC LAUNCHES GRANT PROGRAM TO FUND 46 POLICE AGENCIES**
Grant Money will be used to Fight Underage Drinking and Hold Businesses Accountable

(Sacramento) – California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Director Jerry Jolly announced today that 46 California law enforcement agencies will receive grant money to attack the problem of underage drinking, arrest adults who furnish alcohol to minors, and increase compliance among ABC licensed businesses.

“The Schwarzenegger Administration is committed to increasing protection for youth,” said ABC Director Jerry Jolly. “The money spent for these grant programs will help build safer communities and keep alcohol away from minors.”

The money comes from two separate grant programs, the \$2.3 million California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) Minor Decoy Program, and a \$350,000 Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program (EUDL). ABC recently concluded an 18 month Minor Decoy Grant Program in partnership with OTS and 29 local law enforcement agencies. The grant resulted in the arrest of over 1600 individuals for selling alcoholic beverages to minors, 11, 282 visits to ABC licensed premises and nearly 750 decoy operations where minors, under the direction of ABC Investigators and local police attempted to purchase alcohol from licensed businesses.

Persons who sell to minors face a minimum fine of \$250, and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, ABC will take administrative action against the business’s alcohol license. That may include a fine, a suspension of the license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

In addition to the Minor Decoy Program, ABC will fund 17 agencies through the \$350,000 OJJDP (EUDL) Program. Under this program, ABC Investigators and local law enforcement will conduct decoy shoulder tap operations which 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 purchase alcohol for the minor, investigators then arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor. The penalty is a minimum \$1000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

For more information on these grant programs, contact ABC District Administrator Kathleen Lenihan at (916) 419-2507. 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.