

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC Investigators Receive Statewide Awards

California Office of Traffic Safety Recognizes Long Beach-Lakewood Office, Investigators Hydar and Pieratt

Sacramento — The California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) has recognized The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Long-Beach-Lakewood District Office, San Diego Supervising Investigator Matthew Hydar and Business Practices Investigator Kathy Pieratt for their outstanding efforts to reduce underage drinking during the past year. The Long Beach-Lakewood Office, Hydar and Pieratt all received their awards on Thursday, September 7, 2006 at the OTS/CHP/ABC Annual Law Enforcement Challenge Awards Ceremony held in Sacramento.

The Long Beach-Lakewood District received the award for reporting a 48% drop in Sales to Minors after conducting 20 decoy programs and visiting 255 locations. "It just shows the hard work of our investigators and entire office staff," said District Administrator Marcie Griffin. "I'm really proud of the work they have done to improve safety in the community."

San Diego Supervising Investigator Matthew Hydar received an award for his relentless efforts in combating underage drinking in San Diego County. Hydar is the co-chair of the San Diego County Law Enforcement Task Force on Youth Access to Alcohol. He supervises San Diego task force operations focusing on sales to minors, sales to obviously intoxicated individuals and DUI enforcements. He conducts Target Responsibility for Alcohol-Connected Emergencies (TRACE) Investigations, provides TRACE training to allied agencies including the CHP and volunteers as a member of the MADD victim impact panels and provides training as needed. "Matt deserves all the accolades for his professionalism, his tenacity and dedication to reducing youth access to alcohol," said San Diego District Administrator Jennifer Hill.

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Fresh off her recent appointment to the Business Practices Unit in ABC Headquarters, Investigator Kathy Pieratt was honored for her outstanding field work while serving in ABC's Stockton District Office. She provided leadership and training to the Manteca Police, Stockton Police, Modesto Police and the Mariposa County Sheriff's Department. She helped implement a variety of ABC programs to these agencies including the Minor Decoy, Shoulder Tap Decoy, Licensee Education on Alcohol and Drugs (LEAD) and Informed Merchants Preventing Alcohol Crime Tendencies (IMPACT) Programs. "Kathy has gone above and beyond the call of duty countless times," said ABC Stockton District Administrator Len Bachman. "She is a true professional who is most deserving of the statewide recognition." The awards presenters singled out her efforts with Manteca Police, citing that the last decoy operation she organized with that department resulted in no sales of alcohol to minors.

"All of these professionals represent ABC's finest efforts," said Acting Director Dave Goss. "I'm happy to see all of them recognized around the State for excellent work."

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.