

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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## **Butte County Coalition, Friday Night Live Partnership Team up with ABC to Prevent Underage Drinking**

(Chico) – In a collaborative effort involving Butte Youth Now, Club Live and the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), a minor decoy operation intended to prevent traffic crashes and other alcohol-related crimes was conducted on October 12, 2007 resulting in four violations.

“Each year young people report some merchants as a point of access. They tell us that some clerks do not check for ID and sell to them,” said Jeremy Wilson of Butte Youth Now, a community coalition bringing youth and adults together to address underage drinking. “We hope to prevent future tragedies through strong educational efforts and help law enforcement reduce sales of alcohol to minors.”

ABC consistently conducts compliance checks to prevent sales of alcoholic beverages to minors. The Department visited 25 ABC licensed businesses in Chico on October 12. Officers organized a minor decoy operation in which minors under the direct supervision of ABC investigators, attempted to purchase alcohol from 25 locations and four sold alcohol to the underage decoys.

“We appreciate the opportunity for young people to participate in the decoy operations with ABC Officers,” said Dr. Jim Kooler, Administrator of the California Friday Night Live Partnership. “This youth-adult partnership is helping to create a safer community.”

ABC will take administrative action against the alcoholic beverage licenses of the businesses where alcohol was sold to minor decoys. That may include a fine, a suspension of the license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

“We welcome the efforts of youth groups,” said ABC Director Steve Hardy. “The young people are our future leaders and increasing public safety through this law enforcement and educational effort is critically important.”

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Dale E. Bonner, a member of the Governor’s Cabinet.