

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

3927 Lennane Drive, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95834
(916) 419-2500



CONTACT: John Carr
(916) 419-2525

March 2, 2007
PR 07-30

ABC and the Elk Grove Police Team up with the Friday Night Live Partnership and Sacramento State Students in a Decoy Operation

Investigators from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and Elk Grove Police Department arrested three suspects on March 1, 2007 for furnishing alcoholic beverages to minors. Six decoys from the Friday Night Live Partnership Program at Hiram Johnson High School and two Sacramento State University students worked with seven ABC Investigators and six Elk Grove Police Officers. The operation was conducted in the general vicinity of Elk Grove.

When the operation was complete, fifty-five adults were approached by the decoys who then asked the adults to purchase alcohol for them. Three adults purchased alcohol for the minors and were immediately cited.

ABC Investigators and local law enforcement conducted a program called a Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation 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 agree to purchase alcohol for the minor, investigators then arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

The program is intended to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Statistics show they generally have a higher rate of drunken driving crashes than adults. Studies also show the combination of alcohol and youth tends to increase criminal conduct. According to the American Medical Association, underage drinking can increase chances of risky sexual behavior and teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, compromise health, and result in unintentional injury and death.

This operation was funded through the California Office of Traffic Safety's Friday Night Live Partnership Grant.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Dale Bonner.