

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC Inglewood District Office Wraps up Busy March Enforcement Efforts
ABC Investigators Visits 42 Locations during Decoy Operations
23 other locations receive visit during Inspection with Los Angeles Police

Inglewood- Investigators of the California Department Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) cited 12 people for selling alcohol to minors during the month of March during four separate Minor Decoy Operations in three different cities.

The citations were the result of four compliance check operations in which minors under the direct supervision of the investigators, attempted to purchase alcohol from 42 retail licensees in the cities of Los Angeles, Hawthorne and Beverly Hills.

The clerks who sold to the minor face a maximum 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 alcoholic beverage license of the businesses where the sales occurred. That may include a fine, a suspension of the liquor license, or the permanent revocation of the license. ABC is conducting the compliance checks state-wide to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors.

Minor Decoy operations have been conducted by local law enforcement throughout the state since the 1980's. In 1994, the California Supreme Court ruled unanimously that use of underage decoys is a valid tool of law enforcement to ensure that liquor licensees are complying with the law.

In addition to the Minor Decoy Operations, ABC Investigators and Officers from the Los Angeles Police Department visited 23 businesses during an Informed Merchants Preventing Alcohol Crime Tendencies (IMPACT) Inspection on March 20, 2007. The IMPACT program teamed an ABC plain clothes investigator with a uniformed police officer who visited establishments. The primary objective is to educate licensees about various ways they can participate in reducing alcohol-related crimes such as sales to underage individuals or obviously intoxicated patrons.

Funding for this operation was provided by a grant from the Office of Traffic Safety through the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. ABC is administering the grant. ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency under the direction of Secretary Dale E. Bonner, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.