

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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## **Alcohol Enforcement and Education Making a Difference in Berkeley**

*University, City Leaders working to Reduce Alcohol-Related Problems  
Police have arrested Over 2200 since Grant Programs began in 2003*

**Berkeley** – A strong push that started in 2003 involving increased enforcement and education efforts is helping to reduce alcohol-related incidents in the City of Berkeley and on the University of California (UC) Berkeley campus.

Both the UC Berkeley Police Department and the City of Berkeley Police Department simultaneously have grant money from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) to specifically target alcohol-related crime. Collaborative efforts between ABC, the two police departments, University and Community Leaders to reduce underage drinking are at an all-time high. The violation rate for Sales to Minors at ABC licensed businesses in Berkeley is at the lowest level in 4 years.

ABC, Berkeley Police and UC Berkeley Police have combined to make 2283 arrests during alcohol-related enforcement efforts since state grant money started flowing to Berkeley Police in late 2003. As a result of this and the increase in collaborative city and campus efforts, some alcohol-related problems are being reduced. “When we started the partnership with the University and local law enforcement we wanted to send a very strong and clear message that underage drinking would not be tolerated, and it appears to be helping,” said ABC Chief Deputy Director David Goss.

Armed with ABC Grant money, UC Berkeley Police, Berkeley Police and ABC Investigators have organized over 120 alcohol-related enforcement operations since a focused effort began three and a half years ago. Over 560 law enforcement visits have been made to ABC licensed businesses that sell or serve alcohol in the City of Berkeley resulting in over 160 violations. When police started running compliance check operations in 2003, over 50% of the businesses that were visited sold alcohol to minors. Today, that figure is approximately 20%. Disciplinary actions have already been taken against most of the businesses that allowed sales to minors. Penalties have included letters of warning, fines, suspensions or revocations of alcoholic beverage licenses and more are pending.

The increased police enforcement of alcohol laws has been a critical element of a burgeoning network of initiatives in Berkeley focused on reducing underage drinking and associated problems.

The Chancellor’s Task Force on Student/Neighbor Relations, comprised of students, neighbors, landlords, city and campus officials, has taken a comprehensive approach to address problems largely related - at least initially - to student alcohol use and large parties. Combining

education, training, legislative, enforcement, media, and problem-solving strategies in their efforts, task force members are changing the culture in the campus area, particularly related to underage drinking and parties. Other local initiatives to reduce underage drinking include Students for a Safer Southside, University Health Services' PartySafe program, and the Berkeley Alcohol Policy Advocacy Coalition.

Community leaders from the Berkeley Alcohol Policy Advocacy Coalition have proposed a number of different alcohol policy solutions to the Berkeley City Council. Several of those policies, a Mandatory Responsible Beverage Server Training Ordinance and a Social Host Ordinance, have recently been enacted. BAPAC is still waiting for decisions about the remaining proposals, including a fee based enforcement plan. "We need to continue the level of enforcement in Berkeley made possible through the ABC grants. BAPAC has proposed a way to make that happen," says BAPAC member Ralph Adams.

ABC says one of the primary goals of the department is to work with local law enforcement agencies and community leaders to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. "We must continue sending the message that it is against the law for anyone to sell or furnish alcohol to minors and it is illegal for minors to be in possession of alcohol," said ABC Chief Deputy Director David Goss. "This is an ongoing partnership between ABC, local authorities and the University of California targeting crime problems related to underage drinking."

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