

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

3927 Lennane Drive, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95834
(916) 419-2510



CONTACT: John Carr
(916) 419-2525

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ABC Runs Minor Decoy Operation in Sonora *Investigators Visit 24 Locations and only One Sells to a Minor*

Sonora – On Thursday May 3, 2007, Investigators with the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control and Officers from the Sonora Police Department conducted a Minor Decoy Operation in the City of Sonora. Underage decoys attempted to purchase alcoholic beverages at 24 businesses in the City of Sonora and there was only one arrest for sales of alcoholic beverages to a minor. “It is encouraging when most bartenders and store clerks are vigilant about checking identifications and helping to keep alcohol out of the hands of minors,” said ABC Stockton District Supervising Investigator Chris Espinoza.

The operation was organized after Sonora Police Chief Mace McIntosh contacted ABC’s District Office in Stockton and requested assistance in preparation for the upcoming 50th Anniversary Mother Lode Round-Up Parade & Rodeo. ABC Investigator Guadalupe Ochoa, Supervising Investigator Chris Espinoza and a team of Investigators from the Stockton Office and the Trade Enforcement Unit (TEU) worked the operation with several Sonora **Police Officers** in an effort to raise awareness and reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. The City is preparing for a large rodeo crowd and the operation is part of a pro-active prevention effort to increase safety and send a clear message that minors must be told no..

ABC is conducting the compliance checks state-wide to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Statistics have shown that young people under the age of 21 have a higher rate of drunken driving fatalities than the general adult population.

Those who sell alcohol to a minor face a minimum 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 business. That may include a fine, a suspension of the license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.

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.