

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC Suspends License of Store in Carpinteria

Rite-Aid Store Sold Alcohol to Minors Three Times Between 2005 & 2007

Carpinteria – On April 4, 2008, the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) suspended the alcoholic beverage license of the Rite Aid Market, 1012 Casitas Pass Road in Carpinteria for an indefinite period of time. The action is a result of a Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department and ABC joint investigation that substantiated evidence of three sales of alcoholic beverages to minors between September, 2005 and August, 2007. All three sales occurred during Minor Decoy Operations conducted by ABC and the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department as a result of ABC's Grant Assistance Program (GAP).

The owner of the store can continue to sell groceries and other items but will not be allowed to sell alcohol until the license is transferred to another person or business. ABC must approve any new application for a license.

"This action is part of an ongoing partnership to help keep young persons safe," said ABC Ventura District Administrator Judy Matty. "ABC is pressing forward with a statewide effort to increase compliance with the law through strong enforcement. ABC wants to send a very clear message that selling or furnishing alcohol to minors will not be tolerated."

According to Lieutenant Eric Koopmans, Chief of Police Services for the Carpinteria Station, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department and the City of Carpinteria support the action by ABC to indefinitely suspend the alcoholic beverage license of the Rite Aid, located at 1012 Casitas Pass Road in the City of Carpinteria.

The Sheriff's Department will continue to work in partnership with ABC to enforce all laws pertaining to businesses which sell alcohol. The Sheriff's Department will also continue to participate in joint undercover operations with ABC to reduce alcohol sales to minors.

Sales of alcohol to minors is a major concern because the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports motor vehicle crashes remain the number one cause of death among youth ages 15-20 with nearly 1/3 of traffic accidents alcohol-related. In fact, drivers between 15 and 20 years old are more often involved in alcohol-related crashes than any other age group. One third of youth under age 21 killed in alcohol-related fatalities die during the months of April, May and June. The rate of alcohol-related fatal crashes among drivers between 16 and 20 years old is more than twice the rate for drivers 21 and older. Also, a new study by Columbia University shows that youth binge drinking is reaching epidemic levels.

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.