

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC Checks 14 Businesses in Redondo Beach and Six Sell Alcohol to Minors

Redondo Beach - Investigators of the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) have cited six individuals for selling alcohol to a minor during an April 29, 2008 enforcement operation. The actions were the result of a compliance check operation in which minors under the direct supervision of investigators, attempted to purchase alcohol from 14 retail licensees in the Redondo Beach.

Those who sold to the 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 business's liquor license. 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. The enforcement is part of Operation Save a Teen, a national effort launched by the National Liquor Law Enforcement Association (NLLEA) during the month of May. Underage drinking in the United States is reaching a critical level. Statistics show that in 2005, about 10.8 million persons aged 12-20 (28% of the age *group*) reported drinking alcohol in the past month. Nearly 7.2 million (18.8%) were binge drinkers, and 2.3 million (6%) were heavy drinkers. In the month of May, NLLEA officers will focus on underage drinking enforcement with a goal to save one teen at a time, one incident at a time and one day or night at a time. ¹

222 persons under the age of 21 died in alcohol-related crashes in California during 2006. ABC Director Steve Hardy says ABC investigators will be working throughout California to enforce the law and hopefully prevent alcohol-related tragedies. "May is a month when families should be celebrating landmark events such as high school and college graduations and a wide variety of outdoor community events," Hardy said. "Everyone needs to work together to keep those events from being marred by alcohol-related tragedies."

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.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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