

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

3927 Lennane Drive, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95834
(916) 419-2500



CONTACT: John Carr
(916) 419-2525 or (916) 826-8287

December 12, 2008
PR 08-77

California Alcoholic Beverage Control and California Highway Patrol Team Up to Make Alcohol-Related Arrests

ABC Launched Target Responsibility for Alcohol – Connected Emergencies Investigation after Fatal Collision

Rowland Heights –The California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and California Highway Patrol (CHP) have arrested two Southern California men and ordered a third man to appear in court on alcohol-related charges stemming from a March, 2008 fatal crash.

The CHP has arrested 20 yr. old Elias Munoz. He faces charges of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and driving under the influence with .08 blood alcohol level and causing great bodily injury or death to another person. The CHP has also arrested 22 year old Brian Galvez for the same charges with an additional charge of leaving the scene of a traffic collision resulting in injury or death. In addition to those arrests, ABC has ordered 22 yr. old Theron Miles to appear on criminal allegations of serving alcoholic beverages to seven minors at a dinner party at Joe's Crab Shack, located at 1420 South Azusa Avenue in the City of Industry on the night of the crash. One of the minors served at the restaurant was Munoz, who was 19 at the time and the driver of the vehicle that crashed later that night. The crash resulted in the death of his passenger, 20 year old Ondrea Alvarez. Further investigation revealed that Munoz was racing another vehicle, which Galvez was driving.

ABC Investigators opened a Target Responsibility for Alcohol-Connected Emergencies (TRACE) investigation following the crash, after being contacted by CHP. ABC Investigator Kim Wachowski of the Monrovia District office was assigned to investigate the case in coordination with CHP Officer E. Dasilva. Through a series of interviews and analysis of evidence, Investigator Wachowski and Officer Dasilva were able to submit their respective reports to the Los Angeles County District Attorney that resulted in the issuance of arrest warrants for Munoz and Galvez and the summons to appear on criminal charges for Miles.

In addition to the criminal prosecutions of Munoz and Galvez, ABC will seek disciplinary action on the alcoholic beverage license at Joe's Crab Shack on South Azusa Avenue in the city of Industry.

Eric Hirata, ABC District Administrator of the TRACE Program thanked the CHP and the Monrovia District office for their efforts. ABC worked closely with the CHP throughout the course of the TRACE investigation.

Funding for the TRACE program is made possible by a California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) grant, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The grant provides funding for in-depth ABC investigations of serious incidents including car crashes, but also alcohol overdoses, poisonings, and assaults that result from alcohol consumption by minors.

For more information on the TRACE Program, contact Gerald Ackley in ABC's Southern Division Office at (562) 402-0659.