

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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109 Arrested or Cited in Northern California Shoulder Tap Operation *ABC, Modesto Police and 16 other Agencies try to Reduce Youth Access to Alcohol*

(Modesto) - Officers from the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and Modesto Police joined forces with 14 other law enforcement agencies from several counties and cities on Saturday, March 13, 2010, in a large Shoulder Tap Decoy Operation spread throughout Northern California.

The task force operation has resulted in approximately 109 citations and 8 bookings. 81 individuals were cited for furnishing or selling alcoholic beverages to minors, another 28 were arrested for other violations including illegal narcotics, drunk in public, open containers and parole violations. The operation was conducted in multiple cities and counties in a united effort to reduce youth access to alcohol and hopefully prevent alcohol related problems during the St. Patrick's Day Holiday. In addition, the agencies want to send a strong safety message to keep alcohol out of the hands of minors.

The task force consisted of approximately 100 police officers representing the following agencies; Modesto Police, California Alcoholic Beverage Control, Sacramento Police Department, San Jose Police Department, Oakland Police Department, Folsom Police Department, Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department, Oakdale Police Department, Turlock Police Department, Newman Police Department, Manteca Police Department, UC Berkeley Police Department, Berkeley Police Department, Woodland Police Department, Clear Lake Police Department, and Mendocino County Sheriff's Department, Crescent City Police Department and Vacaville Police Department.

ABC Investigators and local law enforcement conducted a program called a Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation which targets adults who purchase alcohol for people under 21 years of age. Under the program, a minor under the direct supervision of a peace officer will stand outside a liquor or convenience store and ask patrons to buy them alcohol. The minor indicates in some way he or she is underage and cannot purchase the alcohol.

If the adults agree to purchase alcohol for the minor, investigators then arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

The program is intended to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. According to the American Medical Association, underage drinking can increase chances of risky sexual behavior and teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, compromise health, and result in unintentional injury and death.

Funding for this program was provided by ABC through the Grant Assistance Program (GAP). The Grant Assistance Program provides money to local law enforcement agencies to combat alcohol - related concerns in communities throughout the State.

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.