

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: John Carr
(916) 419-2525

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ABC Investigators Make Multiple Arrests at Two San Jose Bars *Arrests are Made for Narcotics Sales, Drink Solicitation, and Underage Drinking*

(SAN JOSE) – ABC Investigators have arrested two individuals for selling illegal narcotics, seven persons for furnishing alcohol to minors, two adults for illegally soliciting drinks and 14 minors who were either consuming alcoholic beverages or illegally inside a bar. Lewd conduct violations were also observed in one of the bars.

The arrests took place last night, during an overnight operation at two separate locations in the city of San Jose. The locations were Richard's Bar located at 1747 Alum Rock and El Potrillo, located at 4104 Monterey Highway, Building E, Unit 2, both are ABC licensed businesses and both are owned by Ricardo Sencionmadrigal.

During the operation, it was determined that the licensee was hosting a teenage birthday party last night at El Potrillo Bar. He was arrested for furnishing alcohol to a minor, allowing minors to enter and remain inside the bar and allowing minors to consume alcohol. A total of 9 adults were arrested at El Potrillo and 14 minors were cited for either consuming alcoholic beverages or remaining in the bar where you must be 21 years of age or older.

During the investigation at Richard's Bar, a security guard and a waitress sold illegal narcotics multiple times to undercover ABC Investigators. ABC Investigators also established that female employees were allowed to solicit the sale of alcoholic beverages from bar patrons, including the undercover investigators. The employees would add a surcharge to their alcoholic beverages for keeping male patrons company. The bar would receive the cash for the alcohol and pay out a commission to the female employee. This type of commission scheme is a violation of section 303a of the California Penal Code, and the profit sharing plan is a violation of Business and Professions Code Section 24200.5(b).

The Department received several complaints from the community regarding the operation of these two bars.

ABC investigators developed information on the two locations during an on-going investigation that lasted several months. The investigation revealed both places were operating in violation of the rules and laws governing the operation of a business with a license to sell alcoholic beverages. "This is an outstanding example of ABC

investigators who are dedicated to making communities safer by reducing alcohol-related crime,” said ABC Director Steve Hardy.

ABC will pursue administrative disciplinary action against both businesses which might include revocation of their licenses.

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.