

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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November 9, 2010

PR 10-50

## **Fresno Man Charged in Connection with Alcohol-Related Deaths** *47 Year Old Fresno Man Accused of Supplying Alcohol to Minor*

**Fresno** – A 47 year old Fresno man faces charges of selling alcohol to an 18 year old man who was later killed in a November 29, 2009 alcohol-related crash.

ABC opened a Target Responsibility for Alcohol Connected Emergencies (TRACE) investigation after being notified by the Fresno Police Department of the collision. The Fresno Police Department conducted the initial crash investigation, while ABC conducted a simultaneous investigation to determine the source of the alcohol.

The ABC investigator who worked on the TRACE case conducted a series of interviews, examined evidence, and determined that Paramjit Singh of Fresno supplied alcohol to 18 year old Jose Antonio Barriga of Fresno back on November 29, 2009. Later that night, Barriga was driving a vehicle when he collided with a parked vehicle and a telephone pole that killed him, a 16 year old male, and a 13 year old female.

The violation occurred while Singh was working as a clerk at Uncle Tom's Liquor Store at 3081 East Tulare Avenue in Fresno. On November 2, 2010, the Fresno County District Attorney's Office filed misdemeanor charges against Singh, charging him with selling alcohol to a minor, a violation of Section 25658(a) of the California Business & Professions Code. On November 8, 2010, ABC arrested Singh for the offense.

ABC filed administrative action against Uncle Tom's Liquor and on November 2, 2010 ordered the ABC license revoked, with the revocation stayed for two years on the conditions that the license is suspended on February 1, 2011 for 30 days, and that there is no further cause for disciplinary action during that two year period.

TRACE is a six-year old ABC program. The program allows for ABC Investigators to conduct investigations throughout California which involve minors, alcohol and serious injuries or fatalities. Since 2004, this program has been responsible for over 450 investigations, involving 335 fatalities, over 130 arrests and 76 accusations against businesses that hold an alcoholic beverage license.

The TRACE program is made possible by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) through the National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration. 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.