

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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ABC Investigators Cite Seven Individuals for Furnishing Alcohol to Minors

(Goleta-Santa Barbara) - Investigators from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) arrested seven individuals between June 11 and June 30, 2011 for furnishing alcoholic beverages to minors in the cities of Goleta and Santa Barbara.

ABC Investigators conducted a program called a Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation which holds accountable any adults who purchase alcohol for people less than 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 buy the alcohol for the minor decoy, investigators arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor.

The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1,000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

The program is intended to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Statistics show minors generally have a higher rate of drunken driving crashes than adults. Studies also show the combination of alcohol and youth tends to increase criminal conduct. 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.

During the June operations, 46 adults were contacted by minor decoys and seven agreed to illegally buy alcohol for them.

ABC is a Department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.