

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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



May 16, 2006

TO: SHERIFFS AND POLICE CHIEFS OF CALIFORNIA

FROM: JERRY R. JOLLY

SUBJECT: DECOY SHOULDER TAP GRANT PROGRAM

Beginning July 1, 2006, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) will be awarding grants of \$5,000 to \$15,000 to local law enforcement agencies to utilize the Shoulder Tap Program. Grant award monies come from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

"Shoulder Tapping" refers to the growing practice used by minors to obtain alcohol from strangers near off-sale retail outlets. Minors wait outside the premises (in the parking lot or on the sidewalk), approach adults who are about to enter and request that the adult purchase alcohol for them.

The shoulder-tap enforcement program is similar to compliance check programs except that it targets noncommercial suppliers. A youthful-appearing underage police operative approaches adults outside an alcohol outlet and requests that the adult purchase alcohol on the operative's behalf. The program targets locales where problems have been reported and uses the same general guidelines for the police operative's actions as in Minor Decoy compliance checks (e.g., no deception, false identification or attempts to look older).

Interestingly, the need for this alternative approach to reducing the availability of alcohol to underage persons has become necessary because of the effectiveness of minor decoy compliance checks of retail alcoholic outlets conducted by the California law enforcement community over the past decade. Recent surveys indicate that as much as forty-six percent of all minors who attempt to acquire alcohol now use the "Shoulder Tap" method. In addition, anecdotal data collected from shoulder-tap investigations conducted to date reveal that as many as thirty-five percent of the adults arrested for purchasing alcohol for minors in this fashion were on parole, probation, had outstanding warrants or extensive criminal histories.

Shoulder Tap Program

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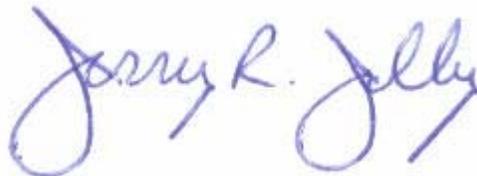
Utilizing this innovative intervention approach will provide us with an additional tool to address and impact the often tragic consequences of underage drinking in our communities and raise public awareness that furnishing alcohol to minors will have consequences.

A Fact Sheet on the Shoulder Tap Program is enclosed for your review.

If you are interested in learning more about the Shoulder Tap Program, please feel free to contact Project Director Kathleen Lenihan at (916) 419-2507. To apply for possible grant funding, please submit a letter of interest and request for funding to Kathleen Lenihan at 3927 Lennane Drive, Suite #100, Sacramento, CA 95834.

In order to be considered for the grant, letters of interest must be received by **June 15, 2006**. Thank you in advance for your interest in this program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerry R. Jolly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "R".

Jerry R. Jolly
Director

Enclosures