

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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ABC Runs Decoy Operation in Camarillo to Prevent Underage Drinking *No Arrests are Made as All Individuals Approached by Minor Decoys Say No*

(CAMARILLO) – Investigators from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) made no arrests on April 18, 2008 during a Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation in the City of Camarillo.

The Decoy Shoulder Tap program targets 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 comply, the peace officers arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor. During the operation, 12 adults were contacted by a minor decoy and none agreed to illegally buy alcohol for the minor decoy. 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. 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.

The operation coincides with the national recognition of April as Alcohol Awareness Month. According to the U.S Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), parents can also help prevent their underage children from drinking alcohol. Studies say parents who communicated and were involved with their children at ages 10 and 11, set clear expectations for their children's behavior, practiced good supervision and consistent discipline, and minimized conflict in the family had children who, at ages 11 and 12, were more likely to see alcohol use as harmful and less likely to initiate alcohol use early. They were also less likely to misuse alcohol at ages 17 to 18. Lack of parental support, monitoring, and communication and lack of feeling close to their parents have been significantly related to frequency of drinking, heavy drinking, and drunkenness among adolescents.

ABC will continue organizing compliance operations throughout California to help reduce youth access to alcohol. Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

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.