

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC, Los Angeles Police Visit 9 Licensed Premises and 2 Sell to Minors

(Los Angeles-Pacific Palisades) - Investigators of the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), along with Officers from the Los Angeles Police Department visited 9 businesses that are licensed to sell alcohol during a minor decoy operation on Tuesday, April 22, 2008. Two of the licensed premises sold alcohol to minors.

Persons who sell to a minor face a minimum fine of \$250, and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, ABC will take administrative action against the alcoholic beverage license of the business. That may include a fine, a suspension of the license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

The operation involved minors under the direct supervision of ABC Investigators and local police who attempted to purchase alcohol. ABC is conducting the compliance checks state-wide to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors.

Minor Decoy operations have been conducted by local law enforcement throughout the state since the 1980's. In 1994, the California Supreme Court ruled unanimously that use of underage decoys is a valid tool of law enforcement to ensure that licensees are complying with the law.

The operation coincides with the national recognition of April as Alcohol Awareness Month. ABC will continue running operations that can help reduce youth access to alcohol. Tools to help prevent underage drinking can be found on the website of the US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) at <http://www.samhsa.gov/>.

Funding for the Minor Decoy 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.