

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC, Ventura Police Department Arrest Adults who Buy Alcohol for Minors

(California) - Investigators from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and the Ventura Police Department joined forces with over 100 law enforcement agencies on Friday, March 16, 2012 in the largest Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation ever assembled in California. In the city of Ventura, three adults were arrested for furnishing alcohol to a minor.

The statewide task force operation resulted in over 430 arrests. Over 370 individuals were cited for furnishing alcoholic beverages to minors and over 50 were arrested for other crimes such as public drunkenness, DUI, parole violations and outstanding warrants. The operation was conducted statewide for the first time ever.

ABC Investigators and local law enforcement conducted a program called a Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation which can lead to the arrest of 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 purchase alcohol for the minor, officers then arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1000 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.

Many local operations were funded by the California Alcoholic Beverage Control through the department's Grant Assistance Program (GAP), and some were funded by the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). ABC is a Department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.