

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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ABC, Los Angeles Police Visit 200 Businesses that Sell Alcohol

IMPACT Inspections Conducted by 20 Enforcement Teams to Increase Community Safety in Boyle Heights

(Los Angeles-Boyle Heights) – 40 officers from the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and Los Angeles Police Department have completed a special operation to check nearly 200 licensed premises that sell alcohol in Boyle Heights after hearing from community residents about problems with public intoxication, loitering and other public safety issues.

20 enforcement teams visited licensed establishments during an IMPACT inspection in Los Angeles on Wednesday, May 2, 2012. IMPACT stands for Informed Merchants Preventing Alcohol-Related Crime Tendencies. It is a cooperative program between ABC, local law enforcement agencies, and licensees.

Representatives from the Boyle Heights Coalition for a Safe and Drug-Free Community and Los Angeles Councilman Jose Huizar's office observed the IMPACT inspections first hand. The Coalition and Councilman Huizar recently organized a town hall meeting to pull citizens and business owners together to discuss ways to make the community safer. Their efforts were a catalyst for the IMPACT inspections.

"I want to thank ABC and LAPD for yesterday's IMPACT action in the Hollenbeck Division area," said Councilmember José Huizar. "Working with the Boyle Heights Coalition for a Safe and Drug-Free Community, I am committed to stepping up enforcement against problem liquor establishments, educating others on responsible ownership requirements and closing legal loopholes in order to reduce liquor licenses in Boyle Heights. Yesterday's inspections were a critical step in this process and ABC and LAPD have demonstrated through their actions that they are committed to doing all they can do to assist. The community of Boyle Heights thanks them."

The IMPACT program teamed ABC Investigators with Los Angeles City Police Officers who visited licensed establishments in a given area. The primary objective of the project was to educate licensees about the various ways they can participate in reducing alcohol-related crimes such as sales to underage and obviously intoxicated persons.

This project combines municipal and state law enforcement personnel in a highly visible profile to educate licensees. IMPACT teams remind licensees of the responsibilities and

accountability associated with the sale of alcoholic beverages. This is accomplished by identifying areas of non-compliance and providing crime prevention information.

The focus is to educate rather than to enforce. Even though the teams are prevention oriented, members may take action against any major violations observed during the inspection/visits.

“We were checking licensed businesses to reduce alcohol-related problems and increase safety. We need businesses to help prevent tragedies on the roads, streets and highways,” said ABC Los Angeles District Administrator Will Salao. “They can do this by checking identifications and refusing to sell alcohol to obviously intoxicated patrons and underage youth.”

Merchants have accepted the program and its philosophy because they are being offered an opportunity to identify weaknesses in their alcoholic beverage sales system and to correct deficiencies without penalties.

Local communities endorse the program as it improves the relationship between law enforcement and merchants and the broader community. ABC is a Department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.