

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC Makes Arrests at Mariscos Casa Corona in Van Nuys

Crack Down Involves Illegal Drugs and Illegal Solicitations of Alcoholic Beverages

(Van Nuys) – On Friday, July 18, 2014, California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) agents and officers from the Los Angeles Police Department arrested eight individuals. Seven suspects were arrested for misdemeanor violations of illegally soliciting alcoholic beverages and one person was booked for selling illegal drugs, a felony. The arrests took place at Mariscos Casa Corona, a restaurant and bar located at 14540 Vanowen Street in Van Nuys. The establishment holds a Type 41 ABC license, an On-Sale Beer and Wine Eating Place.

The arrests were the result of a two-month investigation in which ABC undercover agents were able to make undercover purchases of cocaine that were facilitated by an employee at Mariscos Casa Corona.

The undercover operation also involved an illegal drinks solicitation and commission scheme that occurred inside the premises. The illegal drink solicitations involved bar servers who placed a surcharge on alcoholic beverages in exchange for keeping male patrons company. The bar would receive the cash for the alcohol and pay out a commission to the female employee. This type of scheme is a violation of section 303a of the California Penal Code and Section 24200.5(b) of the California Business and Professions Code. Such practices can contribute to the over-service of alcohol and possibly other violations of law. The location also violated operating conditions that had been placed on its' ABC license.

In addition to criminal charges against the individuals who were arrested, ABC will pursue administrative disciplinary action against the location. Penalties range from a fine to a suspension and the possibility of revocation of the ABC license.

ABC initiated the investigation after receiving information from the Los Angeles Police Department-Van Nuys Narcotics Unit. ABC agents worked undercover multiple times to develop the information that led to the arrests.

ABC is a Department of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency.