

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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March 23, 2015
PR 15-09

ABC, Local Police Visit 108 Licensed Businesses that Sell Alcohol

IMPACT Inspections in Venice Designed to Prevent Alcohol-Related Problems

(Venice/Los Angeles) – ABC Agents from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and Officers from the Los Angeles Police Department visited over 100 ABC licensed businesses on Thursday, March 19, 2015 during an IMPACT inspection operation designed to prevent alcohol-related problems.

IMPACT stands for Informed Merchants Preventing Alcohol-Related Crime Tendencies. It is a cooperative program between ABC, local law enforcement agencies, and licensees. It is designed to increase safety in the community by pointing out problems with graffiti, loitering, public drunkenness and deficiencies in checking identifications to ensure alcohol stays out of the hands of underage youth.

“We need businesses to help prevent problems in the community and reduce tragedies on the roads by properly checking identifications and refusing to serve individuals who are obviously intoxicated,” said ABC Supervising Agent in Charge Will Salao. “IMPACT inspections can help achieve that and also reduce public nuisance problems.”

The IMPACT program reminds 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 to licensees and then following up with them later. The focus is to educate rather than to enforce.

"We're pleased ABC is taking this action," said Sarah Blanch, Manager of the Westside Impact Project. "The IMPACT operation will remind Venice alcohol outlets to be good community partners." Local communities endorse the program as it improves the relationship between law enforcement and merchants. ABC is a Department of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency.