

432 Arrested in Statewide Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation

California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control and Law Enforcement Agencies Team Up

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Agents from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and Officers from approximately 80 local Police and Sheriff's Departments arrested 432 individuals during a statewide underage drinking enforcement operation. ABC joined forces with law enforcement throughout California in a Statewide Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation on Saturday, March 12, 2016. The operation was conducted to help reduce youth access to alcohol and make the streets safer.

Over 380 individuals were cited for furnishing alcoholic beverages to minors, and almost 50 persons have been arrested or cited for open containers, false identification and other crimes such as possession of illegal drugs, public drunkenness, parole violations and outstanding warrants.

ABC agents and local law enforcement conducted a program called a Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation. 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, and 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 \$1,000 fine and 24 hours of community service. The program is intended to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors.

The Santa Clara Police Department's operation was funded by the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control through the Department's Grant Assistance Program (GAP). SCPD visited nine (9) off-sale premises and made contact with 69 subjects. Officers cited four (4) suspects for providing alcohol to a minor. These contacts also resulted in two (2) citations for possession of drug paraphernalia, one (1) warrant arrest, two (2) vehicle code citations to gang members, one (1) towed vehicle, one (1) field interview of a sex registrant and five (5) field interviews of gang members.