

Minor Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation

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04/25/2014

Incident: Shoulder Tap Operation

Contact: Watch Commander, 805-339-4416

Location: Ventura

Date/Time Occurred: April 25, 2014

Officer(s) Involved: Ofc. Bernadette Compean

Victim(s): State of California

Suspect(s): None

Narrative:

The Ventura Police Department conducted a Minor Decoy Shoulder Tap operation in the City of Ventura on Friday April 25, 2014. The Decoy Shoulder Tap Program is an enforcement program that ABC and local law enforcement agencies use to detect and deter the ability for underaged persons to obtain alcohol. During the program, a minor decoy, under the direct supervision of law enforcement officers, solicits adults to buy the minor decoy alcohol.

During this operation, the decoys solicited 18 different persons to purchase alcohol for them. None of the 18 persons furnished alcohol to the decoys.

There are numerous special events and celebrations scheduled this weekend here in Ventura and within our county. We urge everyone to enjoy the events and take a firm stance to not furnish alcohol to any minors. The folks solicited in the decoy operation knew the consequences of furnishing alcohol to a minor. Those folks did the right thing and did not furnish the minor with alcohol. In doing so, those persons avoided the following consequences:

Arrest: It is illegal to furnish alcohol to persons under 21 years of age. Selling and/or furnishing alcohol to a minor is a misdemeanor offense and violators are subject to a \$1000 fine.

Underage drinking consequences: Increased risk of physical and sexual assaults, risky sexual behavior, drug use, alcohol poisoning and more.

Affect on our community: alcohol related injuries such as deaths from motor vehicle accidents or suicides. Disruptive behavior such as disturbing the peace and vandalism.

Let's keep our community safe and healthy by keeping alcohol out of the hands of minors.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Officer Bernadette Compean is our Department's Alcohol Enforcement Officer and supervised the operation. She is also in charge of the Responsible Retailer Program, which is a program to improve public health and safety in our community by increasing the awareness of the dangers that result from improper sales and service of alcoholic beverages, particularly to minors and those who may already be intoxicated. The Ventura Police Department, in conjunction with other county agencies and organizations, provides alcohol beverage establishments with responsible beverage sales and service training. Officer Compean oversees all Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) licenses and alcohol sales permits within the City of Ventura.