

Shoulder Tap Operation

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03/15/2014

Incident: Shoulder Tap Operation

Contact: Watch Commander, 805-339-4416

Location: Ventura

Date/Time Occurred: Saturday March 15, 2014

Officer(s) Involved: Sgt. A. Gomez, Ofc. B. Compean, Ofc. J. Kohagen, Ofc. M. Baumann

Victim(s): State of California

Suspect(s): Israel Aguirre, age 31, Ventura Resident

Narrative:

The Ventura Police Department participated in the annual Statewide Shoulder Tap operation sponsored by the Department of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC). The Ventura Police Department is one of nearly 100 law enforcement agencies in the State collaborating with ABC on this detail. This Statewide Shoulder Tap operation is to enforce the law, get the word out to our communities that furnishing alcohol to a minor is a crime punishable by a \$1000 fine and to protect our youth and community from the dangers of underage drinking.

The Decoy Shoulder Tap Program is an enforcement program that ABC and local law enforcement agencies use to detect and deter shoulder tap activity. 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, twenty one (21) different persons were solicited by the decoy to purchase alcohol. Only one (1) person (a Ventura County resident) furnished alcohol to the decoy. The subject was cited for 25658(a) Business and Professions Code (furnishing alcohol to a minor) and released.

The Ventura Police Department reminds you to talk to your sons and daughters, nephews and nieces, relatives, friends and neighbors and let them know of the serious consequences when underage individuals get access to alcohol.

You can help protect our youth and community by saying no when a minor asks you to purchase or give them alcohol.

Funding for this programs 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.