



City of
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News from: **Oakland Police Department**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OPD Conducts Decoy Operation to Prevent Sales of Alcohol to Oakland Youth

Oakland, CA — On April 6, 2013, the Oakland Police Department conducted a minor decoy operation at local restaurants. The Minor Decoy Operation program is conducted to determine if merchants are asking for identification and age prior to selling alcoholic beverages. During the operation, volunteers under the age of 21 enter a bar or restaurant and attempt to purchase an alcoholic beverage. If the minor is served alcohol, the person furnishing the drink to the minor can be arrested and cited for furnishing alcohol to a minor (25658 (a) BP) and may be fined up to \$1,000. Additionally, the licensee, or person who is licensed to sell alcohol at the premise, can face disciplinary action of fines and suspension days.

During the April 6 operation, minors attempted to purchase alcohol at nine locations. Five locations furnished alcoholic beverages to the minors (about a 56% buy rate). Based on the results of the operation, the high buy rate was likely the result of employees at the business not reading the minor's identification properly. Out of the five locations that sold alcohol, four asked for the minor's identification and after looking at it, sold anyway.

OPD's Alcoholic Beverage Action Team (ABAT) will be hosting a free merchant training in May, which will provide licensee education on the sales of alcoholic beverages to minors, and how to properly read common identification cards. All of the merchants who sold during this operation will receive an invitation to the training.

This project is part of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control's Minor Decoy/Shoulder Tap Grant Project, funded by the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The ABAT unit has received ABC grant funding for additional special operations using minor decoys during the year.

For more information, please contact the Media Relations Office at 510-238-7230 or opdmedia@oaklandnet.com.

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