

News from: Oakland Police Department



For Immediate Release

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Oakland Police Participate in Weekend Shoulder Tap Operation

Oakland, CA — On March 12, 2016, the Oakland Police Department (OPD) participated in a statewide Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation. OPD was one of over 80 law enforcement agencies participating in the operation. The Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation program is intended to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. According to the American Medical Association, underage drinking can increase chances of risky sexual behavior and teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, compromised health, and can result in unintentional injury and death.

“Shoulder tap” refers to the method used by minors under the age of 21 to illegally obtain alcohol by standing outside of a liquor store or market and asking adults to buy it for them. Under a Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation, a minor under the direct supervision of a peace officer will stand outside a liquor or convenience store and ask patrons to buy him/her alcohol. The minor indicates in some way he or she is underage and cannot purchase the alcohol. If the adults agree to purchase alcohol for the minor, officers then arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor (25658 (a) BP). In California, purchasers can face fines of up to \$1,000.

In Oakland, a minor decoy working with OPD made contact with a total of 40 people at seven different locations. Four citizens were cited for providing alcoholic beverages to the minor (about a 10% buy rate).

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. OPD’s Alcoholic Beverage Action Team (ABAT) has received ABC grant funding for additional special operations using minor decoys during the year.

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