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NEWS

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10 Citations Issued During Decoy 'Shoulder Tap' Operation

STANTON, Calif. - (March 18, 2014) – On Saturday, March 15, 2014 the Orange County Sheriff's Department participated in a statewide effort coordinated by the California Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) called a Decoy 'Shoulder Tap' Operation. The goal is to reduce access to alcohol by youth/minors (persons under the age of 21). The operation was conducted at various establishments licensed to sell alcohol in the city of Stanton.

The operation resulted in eight misdemeanor citations issued to adults for furnishing alcohol to minors and two citations for possessing an open container of alcohol in public. Deputies visited 12 establishments and contacted 43 people.

During the operation, Sheriff's deputies and investigators supervised 2 female and 1 male volunteers asking patrons walking into licensed alcohol sales locations to purchase alcohol for them. The volunteers were 18 years old and members of the Orange County Sheriff's Department's Explorer Post. In each case, the volunteer indicated to the patron that they were under the legal drinking age and wanted them to purchase alcohol on their behalf. If the adult patron agreed to purchase alcohol for the volunteer, the adult patron was issued a citation for furnishing alcohol to a minor (under the age of 21). The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

The 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, compromise health and result in unintentional injury or death.

The Decoy 'Shoulder Tap' Operation was funded through a grant by the California Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) received by the Orange County Sheriff's Department in June 2013.

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