

T O R R A N C E

Press Release
Police Department

Torrance Police Department and ABC Complete Decoy Operations in Attempt to Reduce Underage Drinking



Agents from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and Officers from approximately 80 local Police and Sheriff's Departments have arrested over 400 individuals during a statewide underage drinking enforcement operation. ABC joined forces with law enforcement throughout California in a Statewide Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation that lasted most of Saturday, March 12, 2016. The operation was conducted to help reduce youth access to alcohol and make the streets safer.

As of 9pm Saturday, March 12, 413 citations and arrests were made during the statewide effort which was still ongoing. Nearly 340 individuals were cited for furnishing alcoholic beverages to minors, however, over 70 persons have been arrested or cited for open containers, false identification and other crimes such as possession of illegal drugs, public drunkenness, parole violations and outstanding warrants. The Torrance Police Department visited four locations and cited four individuals for purchasing alcohol for minors.

A Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation targets adults who purchase alcohol for people less than 21 years of age. Under the program, a minor under the direct supervision of a peace officer will stand outside a liquor or convenience store and ask patrons to buy them 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, agents then arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

The Torrance Police Department with the assistance of ABC is conducting the compliance checks statewide to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Statistics have shown that young people under the age of 21 have a higher rate of drunken driving fatalities than the general adult population.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) through the Department's Grant Assistance Program. ABC is a Department of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency.

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