

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

CONTACT: Lieutenant Phil Konz at pkonz@pd.sandiego.gov

The San Diego Police Department Partners with California ABC in Statewide Underage Drinking Enforcement Operation

Operations in San Diego Designed to Prevent Alcohol-Related Harm

San Diego – The San Diego Police Department’s (SDPD) Vice Unit contacted 35 individuals during the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control’s (ABC) statewide [Shoulder Tap](#) operation on Saturday, March 15, 2025, in the city of San Diego, resulting in zero citations. None of the individuals solicited for alcoholic beverages furnished alcohol to the minors. This enforcement operation is designed to create awareness about the dangers of underage drinking throughout California and keep communities safe.

“We would like to thank our community members for doing their part by not providing alcohol to minors,” said SDPD Vice Lieutenant Phil Konz.

A Shoulder Tap Operation focuses on adults who purchase alcoholic beverages for persons under the age of 21. A minor under the direct supervision of law enforcement stands outside of a liquor or convenience store and asks customers to buy them alcohol. The minor also states they are underage and cannot purchase the alcohol.

“We conduct these operations to keep alcohol out of the hands of our youth,” said ABC Director Joseph McCullough. “By preventing underage drinking we can increase the quality of life in our communities and reduce DUIs.”

If an adult agrees to purchase alcohol for the underage person, they can be arrested and cited for furnishing alcohol to a minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1,000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

Statistics have shown that young people under the age of 21 have a much higher risk of being involved in a crash than older drivers. [About 25 percent of fatal crashes involve underage drinking](#) according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Funding for this operation was provided by a grant from ABC through the department's [Alcohol Policing Partnership \(APP\)](#) program.

###

About the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control

The Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) is an agency of the government of the state of California charged with the regulation of alcoholic beverages. ABC's mission is to provide the highest level of service and public safety to the people of California through licensing, education, and enforcement. ABC is a department of the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency.