

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, October 30, 2026

CONTACT: Lieutenant Daniel Hall at dghall@pd.sandiego.gov

SDPD Conducts Shoulder Tap Operation Resulting in No Citations

OPERATIONS IN SAN DIEGO DESIGNED TO PREVENT UNDERAGE DRINKING

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Police Department's (SDPD) Vice Unit contacted 19 individuals during a Shoulder Tap operation on October 25, 2026, resulting in no citations. The operation targets adults who purchase alcohol for people 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 indicates they are underage and cannot purchase alcohol.

"Underage drinking harms our community. Preventing the sale of alcohol to minors will help to increase public safety and make our roads safer," said SDPD Vice Lieutenant Daniel Hall.

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.

"ABC conducts these operations to keep alcohol out of the hands of our youth," said ABC Director Paul Tupy. "We can increase the quality of life in our communities and reduce DUIs by preventing underage drinking."

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 program was provided by a grant from the ABC Alcohol Policing Partnership (APP) program.

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About the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
The mission of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control is to provide the highest level of service and public safety to the people of the State through licensing, education, and enforcement.