



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

# NEWS RELEASE

## San Diego Police Department

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **San Diego Police Department Cites Clerks for Selling Alcohol to Minors**

On December 5, 2014, the San Diego Police Department conducted a decoy operation in which minors, under the direct supervision of officers, attempted to purchase alcohol from twenty one (21) retailers who possess licenses to sell alcohol within the city of San Diego.

Four clerks were cited for selling alcohol to minors as a result of this operation and could face a minimum fine of \$250, and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, the California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control may take administrative action against the alcoholic beverage license of the business. That may include a fine, a suspension of the license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

The San Diego Police Department conducts compliance checks to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Statistics have shown young people under the age of 21 have a higher rate of drunken driving fatalities than the general adult population.

Minor decoy operations have been conducted by local law enforcement since the 1980's when the rate of retail establishments selling to minors was as high as 40 to 50 percent. When conducted on a routine basis, the rate has dropped in some cities as low as 10 percent or even below. In 1994, the California Supreme Court ruled unanimously that use of underage decoys is a valid tool of law enforcement to ensure that licensees are complying with the law.

This 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.

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