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CHULA VISTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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POLICE MEDIA ADVISORY

Date: 03/05/2026
To: San Diego Media
From: Chula Vista Police Department
Contact: Sergeant Anthony Molina
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Subject: **CVPD and ABC Conduct Minor Decoy Operations, Find All Inspected Businesses to be in Compliance**

Message: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

In August 2024, the Chula Vista Police Department was awarded a grant from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) to reduce alcohol-related harm in their community.

With this grant funding, the Chula Vista Police Department and the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) partnered together to conduct Minor Decoy operations at eight retail licensee locations in Chula Vista on February 25, 2026. All eight were found to be in compliance, resulting in no citations being issued for selling alcohol to minors. The Chula Vista Police Department thanks these establishments and all local retail licensees who continue to do their part in operating responsibly.

These Minor Decoy operations utilized minors – under the direct supervision of department agents – as decoys to attempt to purchase alcoholic beverages from licensed premises in Chula Vista.

Clerks who sell to a minor face a minimum fine of \$250 and 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, ABC may take administrative action against the alcoholic beverage license of the business where alcohol was sold to a minor. That may include a fine, suspension, or the permanent revocation of the license.

“Conducting these operations allows us to help reduce underage drinking and increase public safety,” said Chula Vista Police Acting Chief Dan Peak.

“Licensees should always check identification before selling alcohol,” said ABC Director Paul Tupy. “Our roadways and communities see improved safety when we prevent access to people not old enough to legally purchase alcohol.”

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).

Minor Decoy operations have been conducted by local law enforcement throughout the state since the 1980s. When the program first began, the violation 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 to below 10 percent in some cities. In 1994, the California Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the use of minor decoys is a valid legal tool of law enforcement to make sure that licensees are complying with the law.

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

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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.

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Copies Sent To:	San Diego Media	Date/Time:	03-05-26 / 1500