



PRESS RELEASE

SCOTT LOUGHNER, ACTING CHIEF OF POLICE

DOWNEY POLICE OFFICERS AND ABC PARTICIPATE IN STATEWIDE UNDERAGE DRINKING ENFORCEMENT OPERATION

Downey, CA, March 12, 2024: On March 9, 2024, the Downey Police Department worked with the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) in a statewide Shoulder Tap operation. The operation resulted in one suspect receiving a citation for furnishing alcohol to a minor in the City of Downey. This operation is designed to create awareness about the dangers of underage drinking.

A Shoulder Tap operation targets adults who purchase alcohol 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 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 Acting Chief of Police, Scott Loughner.

If an adult agrees to purchase alcohol for an 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.

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

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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