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PRESS RELEASE

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On 09-05-08, the COAST>21 Task Force conducted minor decoy and shoulder tap operations in Pacifica and South San Francisco. These operations are funded by a 2008-2009 grant awarded to the Pacifica Police Department and the COAST>21 Task Force by the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC).

During a minor decoy operation, a minor under the age of 21 years is sent into a licensed ABC premises to attempt to purchase an alcoholic beverage. If the employee of the business allows the minor decoy to purchase alcohol, that person is arrested. In addition to criminal charges being pressed against the employee for selling the alcoholic beverage to the minor, the business will face administrative action against their alcohol license by ABC.

During a shoulder tap operation, the underage minor decoy solicits customers outside of the ABC licensed premises to purchase alcohol for him or her. If the customer purchases and provides alcohol to the minor, that person is arrested. Persons arrested for furnishing alcohol to a minor face criminal prosecution.

In South San Francisco, COAST>21 Task Force officers arrested 3 individuals for furnishing alcohol to a minor during the shoulder tap operation.

In Pacifica, an employee of the 7-11 located at 137 Manor Dr. was arrested after selling alcohol to an underage minor decoy. During the operation, there were 9 other Pacifica businesses contacted that did not sell alcohol to the decoy. Those businesses are: U-Save Liquors, Pacifica Farmer's Market, Rite Aid (in both Fairmont Shopping Center and Linda Mar Shopping Center), Lucky's, Ernie's Wine and Liquors, Pacific Market, Safeway, and Quik Stop.

The COAST>21 Task Force wishes to commend the 9 businesses practicing responsible alcohol sales for refusing to sell to the minor decoy.

The COAST>21 Task Force will continue to conduct regular operations in effort to keep alcohol out of the hands of children in our community.

Jim Saunders
Chief of Police

By: Sgt. Daniel Steidle