



PRESS RELEASE

City of Arts & Innovation

Police Department
SERGIO G. DIAZ
Chief of Police

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 1, 2016

Contact: Sergeant Mike Crawford
Special Investigations Bureau
Vice / Graffiti Unit
(951) 353.7218

email: mcrawford@riversideca.gov

Police Department Cites Clerk for Selling Alcohol to a Minor

The Riverside Police Department cited one clerk for selling alcohol to a minor on March 31, 2016. The actions were the result of a minor decoy operation in which minors under the direct supervision of Riverside Police Department vice detectives, attempted to purchase alcohol from 15 different retail licensees in the City of Riverside.

Those who sell to minors face a minimum fine of \$250, and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, The State of California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control will take administrative action against the alcoholic beverage license of the business. Penalties may include a fine, a suspension of the license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

The Riverside Police Department is conducting the compliance checks to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Statistics have shown that 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 throughout the state since the 1980's. When the program first began, the violation rate of retail establishments selling to minors was as high as 40 to 50 percent. As a result of routine periodic enforcement, the rate has dropped in some cities as low as 10 percent or even below. In 1994, the California Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the use of underage decoys is a valid tool of law enforcement to ensure that licensees are complying with the law.

This project is part of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control's Education and Teen Alcohol Enforcement Program Grant, funded by the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

