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**SAN FERNANDO**

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## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: March 22, 2022

### **SAN FERNANDO PARTICIPATES IN STATEWIDE UNDERAGE DRINKING ENFORCEMENT OPERATION, FOUR CITATIONS ISSUED AND THEFT OF BEER THWARTED**

*San Fernando Joined the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC)  
and Nearly 50 Law Enforcement Agencies Statewide To Protect Youth*

SAN FERNANDO, CA – On March 12, 2022, the San Fernando Police Department (SFPD) participated in Operation Shoulder Tap 2022, a statewide underage drinking enforcement operation designed to create awareness about the dangers of underage drinking and keeping communities safe. As part of this operation, SFPD Officers cited two adults for providing alcohol to a minor, one minor for possessing and providing alcohol to another minor as part of a beer theft, and issued one ticket to an unlicensed driver while witnessing and then thwarting a beer run theft from El Super Market.

One goal of the operation is to demonstrate the serious consequences for adults that buy alcohol for minors. “Unfortunately, thousands of young people die in alcohol-related tragedies every year in this country,” said ABC Director Eric Hirata. “This collaborative effort among California law enforcement agencies spotlights underage drinking prevention, increases public safety for communities, and boosts protections for California’s youth.”

SFPD Chief Fabian Valdez commented, “I am very pleased with the success of this operation, which was made possible by grant funds provided by ABC through the department’s Alcohol Policing Partnership Program. Protecting our community’s youth is one of the highest priorities for our department and is in line with our City Council’s goals to provide the highest quality of life for San Fernando residents, visitors and business members.”

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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Page 2 of 2

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Under the operation known as a Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation, a minor under the direct supervision of a peace officer will stand outside a retail seller of alcoholic beverages and ask patrons to buy them alcohol. The minor indicates in some way he or she is underage and cannot purchase the alcohol. If the adults agree and purchase alcohol for the minor, officers then cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor may result in a minimum \$1,000 fine and 24 hours of community service. The program is intended to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors.

Statewide, the operation resulted in citations for 170 individuals who allegedly furnished alcoholic beverages to minors. At least eight other individuals were cited for open containers, public drunkenness, or taken into custody for various crimes or outstanding warrants. The Operation keeps communities safe by holding individuals accountable for harmful, illegal activities.

ABC has developed programs that help protect communities, prevent alcohol-related harm, and potentially save lives, visit ABC's website to learn more. ABC is a department of the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency.

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