



Huntington Beach Police Department

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Press Release

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Huntington Beach Police Department Conducts Undercover Operations Targeting Alcohol and Related Crimes

On March 11, 2023, Detectives from the Huntington Beach Police Department (HBPD) joined forces with law enforcement agencies throughout California in a statewide Shoulder Tap operation. HBPD Detectives and agents from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) conducted Shoulder Tap operations at six locations within the City.

The operation targets adults who purchase alcohol for people under 21. Under the program, a minor, under the direct supervision of a peace officer, will stand outside a liquor or convenience store and ask patrons to buy them alcohol. The minor indicates, in some way, they are underage and cannot purchase the alcohol. If the adults comply, officers arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor. This enforcement operation is designed to create awareness about the dangers of underage drinking throughout California and keep communities safe.

During the operation, approximately 16 adults were contacted by a minor decoy. Of those contacted, three agreed to buy alcohol for the decoy illegally. The subjects were arrested and cited.

Statewide, the operation resulted in citations for 132 individuals who allegedly furnished alcoholic beverages to minors. In addition, at least nine other individuals were cited for open containers, public intoxication, DUI, or other crimes.

The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1,000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

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 involved underage drinking, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

ABC's Alcohol Policing Partnership Program funded the local operations through a grant received in September for the 2022/ 2023 fiscal year.

