



SOUTH LAKE TAHOE POLICE DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE

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South Lake Tahoe Police Department Cites Clerks for Selling Alcohol to Minors

South Lake Tahoe, CA - On April, 29th 2016, South Lake Tahoe Police Department cited 4 clerks for selling alcohol to minors. The actions were the result of a minor decoy operation in which minors under the direct supervision of officers, attempted to purchase alcohol from 10 retail licensees in the City of South Lake Tahoe. The following individuals were cited at the establishments listed below:

- **Nathaniel Asavedo (Safeway Gas, 3376 Lake Tahoe Blvd)**
- **Transito Martinez (Chevron Gas, 3651 Lake Tahoe Blvd)**
- **Shearon Cullins (Whiskey Dicks, 2660 Lake Tahoe Blvd)**
- **Ricardo Espino (Chevy's Restaurant, 3678 Lake Tahoe Blvd)**

Those who sold to the minor face a minimum fine of \$250, and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, ABC will take administrative action against the alcoholic beverage license of the business. That may include a fine, a suspension of the license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

The South Lake Tahoe 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 that of 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. When conducted on a routine basis, the rate has dropped in some cities to as low as 10 percent or even below.

In 1994, the California Supreme Court ruled unanimously that use of underage decoys is a valid tool of law enforcement to ensure that licensees are complying with the law. Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) through the department's Grant Assistance Program. ABC is a Department of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency.

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