

PRESS RELEASE

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“SAFE SUMMER, 2007” OPERATIONS CONTINUE.

During the Month of July Detectives from the Los Banos Police department and Agents from Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) conducted two underage alcohol decoy operations.

The first operation was conducted on June 8, 2007. During this operation an underage decoy entered stores and bars with the intent of buying alcohol. The decoys are instructed to answer all age related questions truthfully and to show their identification if asked. The decoys are provided with money to purchase alcohol. The decoy is in view of Officers at all times for their safety. During this operation we went to eight stores and four bars. The decoy purchased alcohol at a local market in the 200 block of 7th St. The clerk who sold the alcohol was issued a citation. The business owner could face a fine or suspension of their alcohol license by ABC.

The second operation was a "shoulder tap" operation and was conducted on June 29, 2007. The decoy would stand outside of stores and ask people to purchase alcohol for them. The decoy is instructed to tell the people they are underage. Four people were issued citations for furnishing alcohol to minors. This type of operation does not effect the store clerk or the business' alcohol license.