

PRESS RELEASE

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“SAFE SUMMER, 2007” OPERATIONS CONTINUE.

During the month of June, Detectives with the Los Banos Police Department conducted two separate operations where a decoy under the age of 18 was used to purchase cans of spray paint from businesses in Los Banos. Under California law, it is illegal for someone under the age of 18 to purchase spray paint canisters. These operations were conducted under the “Safe Summer 2007” campaign to decrease the occurrence of graffiti throughout Los Banos. The decoy was able to purchase spray paint at one of the local stores and as a result two subjects were issued misdemeanor citations.

The operations were conducted at the following retail stores: Lowes, Wal-Mart, Sorensen’s, K-Mart, Home Depot, Los Banos Lumber, Los Banos Paint Co., Spectra Tone Paint, and Sherwin-Williams.

Our research into this operation with near by law enforcement agencies indicates we are one of the first in Merced County to conduct such an operation. As always, decoys deployed are typically Los Banos Police Explorers who have experience and training working with law enforcement in these types of operations. Decoys are always under the direct observation and supervision of an Officer and are only deployed in very low confrontational probability activities.