



# *Chowchilla Police Department*

**Jay A. Varney, Chief of Police**  
122 Trinity Avenue, Chowchilla, California 93610



**Date:** July 29, 2009  
**To:** Media  
**From:** David Noblett, Police Sergeant  
**Subject:** Decoy/Shoulder Tap Operation

On July 22, 2009, the Chowchilla Police Department, California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control and the Madera County Sheriff's Department conducted a Minor Decoy and Shoulder Tap Operation regarding sales of alcohol to minors. The decoy was sent into the stores that sell alcohol in the City of Chowchilla and the surrounding areas throughout the County of Madera. The decoy was unsuccessful at all sixteen of the stores due to the clerks asking the decoy for identification or their age which prevented them from purchasing the alcohol.

During the Shoulder Tap Operation, the decoy was asked to leave the premises by the clerks at four local stores. One clerk observed the decoy hand a customer the money and then refused to sell the customer alcohol for the decoy. "The clerks did an outstanding job during the operation" stated Sgt. David Noblett of the Chowchilla Police Department. "This operation showed how difficult it has become for minors to purchase alcohol in the City of Chowchilla." Officers did observe minors in possession of alcohol at one establishment and discovered the alcohol had been purchased by a family member. Ruben Reyes Gomez, 31, of Madera was arrested for furnishing alcohol to a minor. Andrew Medina, 18, of Madera, Victor Barrientoz, 20, of Madera, Juan Lopez Riviera, 20, of Merced, and a juvenile were arrested for minor in possession of alcohol. All of the subjects were cited and released at the scene. Anyone who witnesses the sale of alcohol to minors is encouraged to call the Chowchilla Police Department at (559) 665-8600.

*Service & Safety*

Office (559) 665-8600 Fax (559) 665-7416  
[www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us/police/police\\_main.htm](http://www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us/police/police_main.htm)