



Chowchilla Police Department

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



Date: August 1, 2010
To: Media
From: David Noblett, Police Sergeant
Subject: Decoy/Shoulder Tap Operation

On July 30, 2010, 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 14 of the stores due to the clerks asking the decoy for identification or their age which prevented them from purchasing the alcohol. The decoys were able to purchase alcohol at two local establishments. Leandra Sanchez (27) of Madera was arrested at The Wagon Wheel in the 8000 block of Hwy 152 and Bradley Miller, (25), of Chowchilla was arrested at Ahmad's Valero located in the 18000 block of Avenue 24. Both clerks were issued citations for furnishing alcohol to a minor and released at the scene. Neither clerk asked the decoy for his identification or his age.

During the Shoulder Tap Operation, Peter Basler, (21) of Chowchilla was arrested in the 1500 block of Robertson Blvd. after purchasing alcohol for the decoy. Ernesto Piceno, (21), of Chowchilla was arrested in the 10 block of Robertson Blvd. after purchasing alcohol for the decoy. Piceno was also arrested for driving without a license and possession of an open container in a vehicle. A Shoulder Tap is where a decoy is placed in front of a store with a valid liquor license. The decoy asks customers to purchase alcohol for them due to them being underage and the clerk refusing to sell to them. "Keeping minors from being able to obtain alcohol is, and will continue to be, a number one priority with the Chowchilla Police Department" stated Sgt. Noblett of the Chowchilla Police Department. "I want to commend all of the clerks and customers who refused to sell or furnish alcohol to the decoys." 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