



City of Chowchilla POLICE DEPARTMENT

Date: April 18, 2008
To: The Chowchilla News
From: David Noblett, Police Sergeant
Subject: A.B.C. Minor Decoy Operation

On Thursday, April 17, 2008, members of the Chowchilla Police Department and the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control conducted a Minor Decoy Operation in the Chowchilla. The decoys were sent into stores that have a valid liquor license within the City of Chowchilla and the surrounding areas in the County of Madera. The decoys were unable to purchase alcohol at all 16 establishments. The operation was conducted as part of the grant received from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control in July of 2007. Furnishing alcohol to a minor is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in the county jail and/or a fine. "I want to commend every clerk in all of the businesses who refused to sell alcohol to the decoy" stated Sgt. Noblett of the Chowchilla Police Department. "Making it difficult for minors to buy alcohol in the City of Chowchilla makes our community that much safer".

A L.E.A.D. Training (Licensee Education on Alcohol and Drugs) was presented to several businesses in March of 2008 at the Chowchilla Civic Center. 24 employees from six local businesses attended the training. Attendees were taught the consequences of selling alcohol to minors and obviously intoxicated persons. Attendees were also instructed on what to look for on fraudulent driver's licenses and identifications.

Officers also conducted a Shoulder Tap Operation in conjunction with the Minor Decoy Operation. A Shoulder Tap is where the decoy asks customers of the

establishments to purchase alcohol for them due to the decoy being underage. Brian Thomas Donahue, (29), of Chowchilla was arrested in the 1100 Block of Robertson Blvd. for furnishing alcohol to a minor. Donahue was cited and released on scene.

“The Chowchilla Police Department and the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control will continue to aggressively enforce the alcohol laws in regard to underage drinking” stated Sgt. Noblett of the Chowchilla Police Department. Anyone who witnesses underage drinking is encouraged to call the Chowchilla Police Department at 559-665-8600.

