



# *Chowchilla Police Department*

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



**Date:** June 21, 2009  
**To:** Media  
**From:** David Noblett, Police Sergeant  
**Subject:** Tobacco Decoy Operation

## **PRESS RELEASE**

On June 16, 2009, the Chowchilla Police Department, Madera County Public Health and the Madera County Sheriff's Department conducted a Minor Decoy Operation regarding sales of tobacco to minors. The decoy was sent into the stores that sell tobacco products in the City of Chowchilla and the surrounding areas throughout the County of Madera. At sixteen of the stores, the decoy was asked for identification or their age which prevented them from purchasing the tobacco. The decoy was only able to purchase tobacco at one store. Felipe Lozano, 19, of Chowchilla, was arrested at Ahmed's Exxon located in the 18000 block of Avenue 24 for furnishing tobacco to a minor. Lozano was issued a citation and released at the scene. Furnishing tobacco to a minor is a misdemeanor that is punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment in the county jail.

The operation was conducted as a result of a training that was hosted by the Madera County Department of Public Health in May and attended by officers from the Chowchilla Police Department. The operation was considered a success by the Chowchilla Police Department and the Department of Public Health. "I want to commend all of the clerks in the stores that asked the decoy for identification and/or their age" stated Sgt. David Noblett of the Chowchilla Police Department. Anyone who witnesses the sale of tobacco products to minors is encouraged to call the Chowchilla Police Department at (559) 665-8600.

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*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)