



News Release

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OLCC Spring Break minor sales checks in SE PDX show 85% compliance

Portland, OR – Thirty-four out of 40 businesses in Southeast Portland passed a check for alcohol sales to minors on March 14. The 85 percent passing rate is well above the 2008 state average of 78 percent. The compliance check was performed by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission and Portland Police Bureau.

"Spring break can be challenging for businesses that sell alcohol," said Carl Lewis, OLCC Regional Enforcement Manager. "This high passing rate really shows that licensees are taking their role to reduce minors' access to alcohol seriously. It's a great way to start off the spring break season."

A recent addition to this program involves a unique partnership between OLCC and the Oregon Beer and Wine Distributors Association to reward businesses who refuse to sell to minors.

Each premise that did not sell to a minor decoy on Saturday received a letter of congratulations from Steve Pharo, Executive Director of OLCC and a decal that says, "We passed! On March 14, 2009, this establishment refused to sell alcohol to a minor during a Minor Decoy Operation. We don't sell to minors, so don't even try!!!"

Licensees are encouraged to place the decals on their doors, windows, beer coolers or point-of-sale area where it is visible to the public. This extra visibility will increase the deterrent effect. The decals were developed and designed by OLCC and the Oregon Beer and Wine Distributors. The Distributors' Association paid for the decals.

"Research is very clear that decoy programs are effective in reducing underage sales, but they are more effective when there is recognition and reward for the licensee that does not sell to a minor," said Lewis.

The commission performs the minor sales checks in an effort to reduce drinking by minors, which is a serious problem throughout the state. The OLCC tests about 1,400 licensed liquor businesses each year. Licensees or their employees can be held liable for alcohol-related damages and injuries if they serve or sell alcohol to a minor.

The following licensees were tested and passed the compliance check: **Safeway Store #1752**, 16409 SE Division; **China Hut Restaurant**, 16721 SE Division; **Roll Your Own**, 15801 SE Division; **Roll Your Own Market**, 13737 SE Powell; **Plaid Pantry #113**, 13521 SE Powell; **B C Food Store**, 12918 SE Foster Rd.; **Plaid Pantry #125**, 11150 SE Division; **Plaid Pantry #128**, 10350 SE Holgate Blvd.; **9215 SE Powell Shell**, 9215 SE Powell; **Eugenios**, 3588 SE Division; **Yoko's**, 2878 SE Gladstone St.; **Gladstone Street Pub**, 3737 SE Gladstone St.; **The Hutch on Holgate St.**, 4515 SE 41st Ave.; **Limelight Restaurant & Lounge**, 6708 SE Milwaukie; **Papa Haydn**, 5829-25 SE Milwaukie; **Bob Handy Pantry**, 3354 SE Milwaukie Ave.; **The Lamp**, 3023 SE Milwaukie; **Burdigala Wine Shop**, 8317 SE 13th Ave.; **Foster's Market & Deli**, 8533 SE 17th Ave.; **Adie Mae's Deli Dogs**, 10530 SE Washington St. Ste. 101A; **Red Robin Burgers & Spirits Emporium**, 9880 SE Washington St.; **Wong's King**, 8733 SE Division; **Nick's Double Up Deli**, 8028 SE Powell Blvd.; **7-Eleven Store #2353-14495G**, 7115 SE Powell Blvd.; **Otto's Sausage Kitchen**, 4138 SE Woodstock; **Tani**, 4807 SE Woodstock; **Plaid Pantry #9**, 5414 SE Woodstock; **Plaid Pantry #52**, 5146 SE Holgate; **ASAP Market**, 7407 SE 52nd Ave.; **Fair Food Market**, 7134 SE Duke; **Stonewall's Market**, 7449 SE 72nd; **Hidden East Tavern**, 6525 SE 52nd; **Moose Lodge #291 Portland**, 74145 SE 52nd; **Jumbo Restaurant & Lounge**, 4427 SE Johnson Creek Blvd.

The following licensees were tested and failed the compliance check: **Papa Sons**, 12525 SE Powell; **Milwaukie Market**, 4401 SE Milwaukie; **7-Eleven Store #22353-17335A**, 1705 SE 122nd; **McMenamins Pub 205**, 9710 SE Washington; **Malay Satay Hut Portland**, 2850 SE 82nd Ave. Ste. 4; and **Sawyer's Market**, 6006 SE Flavel St.

Servers, bartenders and licensees whose employees sell alcohol to the minor or do not verify the minor's age, are subject to OLCC administrative penalties including fines or suspensions. Store clerks who sell can be cited with criminal charges and a minimum \$350 fine.

Under Oregon law, businesses in cities with a population of 20,000 or more have an equal chance of being randomly selected for a minor decoy compliance check. A business can also be selected for a compliance check if there is a documented complaint of sales to minors. Businesses in cities with a population under 20,000 and unincorporated areas in counties are not subject to these selection requirements.

The OLCC offers a free training course on how to check ID's. Participants learn how to identify false identification and the laws regarding minors and alcohol. Additional training opportunities are available including classes for store clerks and service permit holders. Interested persons can call the local OLCC office to schedule a training session.

During the sales checks, a minor volunteer attempts to purchase alcohol from a licensed business to see if staff are checking ID's correctly and refusing to sell alcohol to anyone under 21. Commission inspectors or other law enforcement officers supervise the minor volunteers. The volunteers carry their own legal ID and do not disguise their age or lie to encourage the sale of alcohol.

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Promoting the public interest through responsible alcohol sales and service.