



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Subject: Martinez Police Department Receive Grant to Fight Alcohol-Related Crime

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MARTINEZ – City will receive \$15,800 to Reduce Alcohol-related Problems. Martinez Police Chief Sappal announced today that the Martinez Police Department has been awarded a \$15,800 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) through the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) to battle alcohol-related crime.

“This is important to the city in order to increase protection for youth and to shut down problem locations that have contributed to an increase in crime,” Chief Sappal said.

The grant was awarded to the Martinez Police Department from ABC through the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The goal of the grant is to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors and reduce alcohol-related crime through multiple enforcement, educational, and prevention programs conducted by local law enforcement officers.

A portion of the grant funds will be used for holiday enforcement efforts. Programs funded through the grant include Minor Decoy and Shoulder Tap Decoy operations, Informed Merchants Preventing Alcohol-Related Crime Tendency (IMPACT) inspections, Licensee Education on Alcohol and Drug (LEAD) trainings and Target Responsibility for Alcohol-Connected Emergencies (TRACE) trainings.

The grants strengthen local law enforcement efforts by combining the efforts of local police officers and ABC agents. ABC agents have expertise in alcoholic beverage laws and can help communities reduce alcohol-related problems.

“The program improves the quality of life in neighborhoods,” said ABC Director Jacob Appelsmith. “We’ve seen a real difference in communities where the grant program resources have been invested.”

The funds will be used to reduce the number of alcoholic beverage sales to minors, obviously intoxicated patrons, illegal solicitations of alcohol, and other criminal activities such as the sale and possession of illegal drugs.

ABC is a Department of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency..

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