



# News Release

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For immediate release:  
Wednesday, April 8, 2009

## OLCC checks for alcohol sales to minors in Portland and Gresham

**Portland, OR** – Eight out of nine businesses in Gresham and 12 out of 18 businesses in NW/SW Portland passed checks for alcohol sales to minors.

The Gresham compliance check was performed on April 3 by OLCC and Gresham Police Department. The 89 percent passing rate is well above the 2008 statewide average of 78 percent. The OLCC and Portland Police Bureau performed the Portland sales check on April 2. The 67 percent average is below the statewide average.

"These minor sales checks remind businesses that we're in the community and we're checking," said Carl Lewis, OLCC Regional Enforcement Manager. "Underage drinking causes harm to teens, including affecting brain development. It's important that we're on the streets working with licensees to keep kids from buying alcohol."

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 of the businesses that did not sell to a minor decoy received either a letter of congratulations from Steve Pharo, Executive Director of OLCC or a decal that says, "We passed! On April 2, 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 who received the decals are encouraged to place them 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.

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.

### Gresham results:

The following licensees were tested and passed the compliance check: **Gresham Inn**, 117 N. Main; **Lucky Buffet**, 2830 G NE Hogan; **Pic-A-Deli & Grill**, 2402 SE Burnside; **Sidekicks**; 746 NE 181<sup>st</sup>; **Meeka Japanese Restaurant**; 730 NE 181<sup>st</sup>; **Zara's Eurofoods**, 17990 SE Division; **Deli Barn**, 2410 SE 182<sup>nd</sup> and **Red Sea Market**, 1222 NW Eastman Parkway.

The following licensee was tested and failed the compliance check: **John's Arco**, 18030 E. Burnside.

### Portland results:

The following licensees were tested and passed the compliance check: **Pizza Schmizza**, 512 SW Taylor; **Qdoba Mexican Grill**, 505 SW Taylor; **Thai Peacock**, 219 SW 9<sup>th</sup>; **Capitol Hwy Deli Food Market**, 11102 SW Capitol Hwy; **Roseland Theater**, 10 NW 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.; **Silverado**, 318 SW 3<sup>rd</sup>; **Spyce Gentleman's Club**, 210 NW Couch; **Tube BDE**, 18 NW 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.; **Dirty Bar & Grill**, 35 NW 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.; **The Melting Pot Restaurant**, 1001 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.; **University Club of Portland**, 1225 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. and **Tandoor**, 406 SW Oak.

The following licensees were tested and failed the compliance check: **East**, 322 NW Everett; **Sushi Takahashi 2**, 2415 SW 5<sup>th</sup>; **Kenny & Zukes Deli**, 1038 SW Stark St.; **Eat Pizza**, 2037 SW Morrison St.; **Bush Garden**, 900 SW Morrison St. and **Marrakesh Moroccan Restaurant**, 1201 NW 21<sup>st</sup>.

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.*