



# News Release

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## Seventeen out of 20 Oregon City businesses pass OLCC minor sales check

**Portland, OR** – Seventeen out of 20 businesses in Oregon City passed a check for alcohol sales to minors on Feb. 19. The 85 percent passing rate is well above the 2008 state average of 78 percent.

A recent addition to this program involves a unique partnership between OLCC and the Oregon Beer and Wine Distributors Association. 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. Until now, there were no funds for that aspect of the program.

“Underage binge drinking can lead to adult alcoholism. Businesses licensed by the OLCC need to know the long-term affects of a sale to a minor,” said Carl Lewis, OLCC Regional Enforcement Manager. “Having only three places that failed is very encouraging.”

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: **7-Eleven #2363-20349B**, 705 Washington St.; **Albertsons #571**, 19007 S. Beaver creek Rd.; **BI-MART #622**, 1813 Molalla Ave.; **Bridgeview Beer & Wine Supply**, 622 Main St.; **Easy Mart**, 1321 Main St.; **Green Grocer**, 891 Molalla Ave.; **High Street Minit Mart**, 223 High St.; **Hogie’s Pub**, 1200 Main St.; **McMenamin’s Oregon City**, 102 9<sup>th</sup> St.; **Plaid Pantry #142**, 1346 Leland Dr.; **Plaid Pantry #94**, 13541 S. Redland Rd.; **Quick Stop Market II**, 13987 S. Holcomb Blvd.; **South End Market**, 1033 South End Rd.; **Steve’s Market**, 13927 S. Holcomb Blvd.; **Tony’s Smokehouse & Cannery**, 1316 Washington St.; **Winestock**, 820 Main St. #8; and **Hilltop Chevron**, 860 Molalla Ave.

The following licensees were tested and failed the compliance check: **Danielson’s Fresh Market Place**, 1500 Molalla Ave.; **Liquid Solutions**, 275 S. Beaver creek Rd. and **Red White & Brew**, 1678 S. Beaver creek Rd.

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.*