



News Release

Oregon Liquor Control Commission
9079 SE McLoughlin Blvd., Portland, OR 97222-7355
1-800-452-6522

For more information: Christie Scott, Public Affairs Specialist, (503) 872-5002
Linda Ignowski, Regulatory Director (503) 872-5115
www.oregon.gov/olcc

For immediate release: Friday, Aug. 14, 2009

100% passing rate for OLCC minor sales checks in Burns

Portland, OR – Eight out of 8 businesses in Burns passed a check for alcohol sales to minors July 24. The sales check was performed by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, Burns Police Department and Harney County Sheriff's Office.

The 100 percent compliance rate was well above the 2008 statewide average of 78 percent.

"This is the kind of results we're hoping to get every time we go out," said Linda Ignowski, Regulatory Director. "Underage drinking is not only a public safety concern, but it can do long-term damage to a teen's still developing brain."

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 1,800 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.

Businesses that passed:

Bella Java and Bistro, 314A N. Broadway

Central Pastime, 211 Broadway

El Toreo, 239 N. Broadway

CS Convenient Services, 493 S. Kearney

Liquor Store, 763 Ponderosa Village

Jiffy Mart, 230 Hines Blvd.

Leathers Hines Shell, 652 Hwy 20 N

Erickson's Thriftway Burns, 13011 Hwy 20

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.

##

"Promoting Responsible Alcohol Sales and Service"