



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### **Police cite two liquor stores for underage alcohol sales**

*Ten other businesses applauded for refusing to sell in undercover operation*

The Howard County Police Department recently conducted a test of liquor stores throughout the county that resulted in two businesses being cited for selling alcohol to an underage customer.

All Saints Liquors, 9105 All Saints Road, Laurel, and Angels Cut Wine & Spirits, 5725 Richards Valley Road, Ellicott City, received citations. The businesses have been notified that they will be brought before the Alcohol Beverage Hearing Board for violation hearings.

As part of the test, a 17-year-old volunteer from HC DrugFree, entered the establishments and attempted to purchase alcohol. Some of the clerks checked his driver's license before the sale and others did not. The driver's license clearly showed the volunteer was less than 21 years of age.

Ten other businesses fared well in the test, with employees following all appropriate laws. Clerks at those establishments reviewed the volunteer's driver's license and refused to complete the sale. Police Chief Gary Gardner is sending letters of appreciation to employees of:

- Bottom of the Bay, Cherry's Liquors, and Montpelier Liquors, all in Laurel;
- I.M. Wine, Fulton;
- Kings Contrivance Liquor Shoppe and Dobbin Square Liquors, both in Columbia;
- Perfect Pour, Lark Brown Liquors and Twisted Cork, all in Elkridge; and
- Friendship Liquors in West Friendship.

These letters commend the employees for their commitment to curbing underage drinking.

These periodic tests are part of an ongoing effort to combat underage drinking in Howard County. For this operation, the police department partnered with HC DrugFree, which recently launched "Be a Parent, Not a Friend," an awareness campaign which encourages parents to not make alcohol available to teens. The department has a long-standing relationship with HC DrugFree in collaborating to combat underage drinking and drug use.

The police department continues to focus on reducing inappropriate use of alcohol and drunk driving, particularly among young people. The department also reminds parents and other adults that anyone hosting parties where alcohol is served to minors may face stiff penalties and criminal charges. Police encourage citizens who are aware of underage drinking or establishments that sell alcohol to minors to call 410-313-STOP.

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