



State of Arizona  
Department of Liquor Licenses and Control

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## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### GRANT MONEY SAVES DUI ENFORCEMENT TAX DOLLARS

PHOENIX - The Department of Liquor is the enforcement and regulatory agency for Arizona's 12,200 liquor-licensed businesses. The agency was recently awarded a \$56,000 grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) to fund overtime, equipment, and training supplies.

Michael Rosenberger, the agency's Deputy Director, is responsible for 14 sworn officers specially trained in liquor investigations. Rosenberger explains, "This grant funds overtime for Covert Underage Buyer (CUB) operations. Officers train "CUBs", people under age 21, to attempt to purchase liquor from a store or bar that has been reported to the agency. Also with this grant we'll increase law enforcement presence at big events like Waste Management Open, Barrett-Jackson, NASCAR, Fiesta Bowl, annual community celebrations, and events that attract underage, for example, outdoor concerts like Country Thunder, Spring Break, and homecoming."

Rosenberger continues, "Preventing violations from happening in the first place is our goal. This grant allows our officers to conduct free training courses on the enforcement liquor laws and spotting fake IDs. Due to similar funding, 87 training events have been facilitated by the Department of Liquor during the past 12-months. In addition to law enforcement officer training, liquor-licensed business owners and staff attend training. The challenge for businesses is in understanding and applying liquor laws to daily business operations due to changes in the liquor laws each year. Training courses create the opportunity for liquor officers and business owners to talk one-on-one. We answer specific questions and explain how laws will be enforced. During these exchanges, licensees and their staff teach officers about how their businesses operate and discuss common challenges. Two-way learning is critical to success in public safety and in compliance. Everyone wins!"

Rosenberger adds, "Grant funding requires officers to take an "aggressive" approach and make a lasting impression. Standard enforcement doesn't always result in permanent change. For licensees, stiff fines, suspensions, or revocations may be the result. For staff and patrons, arrests, fines, and jail time may apply. Enforcement activity and educational work well together and these achievements are reported to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety."

Alberto Gutier, Director of GOHS, explained, "Through DUI/Impaired Driving enforcement, the Department of Liquor and other state, local, and tribal enforcement agencies use grant funds to promote roadway and public safety. Together we save lives. Educating liquor licensees, their employees and patrons is the first line of defense in preventing permanent harm. Acting on that education will keep intoxicated people from getting behind the wheel, out of jail, and will save millions in taxpayer dollars."

Citizens concerned about the liquor-related violations and public safety are encouraged to call 1-877-668-5345. Violations can also be reported on the homepage of [www.azliquor.gov](http://www.azliquor.gov).

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