



News Release

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Only 17 out of 29 Newport businesses pass OLCC minor sales check

Newport, Ore. – Twenty nine businesses in Newport were checked for minor alcohol sales on June 12 by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission and the Newport Police Department. Seventeen licensees passed the check by refusing to sell alcohol to the minor volunteer.

The 59 percent passing rate is significantly below the 2007 state average of 78 percent.

"It's disheartening to see the compliance rate so low," said Pete O'Rourke, Eugene Regional Manager. "We want to let licensees know that we're here to help them. We're going to reach out to the twelve licensees who failed so we can provide additional education. We also offer a free class on how to check ID's. If a licensee is interested, all they have to do is call us."

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 1,300 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: **Bayfront Pizza**, 836 SW Bay Blvd.; **Champagne Patio Restaurant & Wine Shop**, 1630 N. Coast Hwy.; **Forinash Gallery**, 856 SW Bay Blvd.; **Fred Meyer**, 150 NE 20th St.; **Hallmark Gift Shop**, 744 Elizabeth St.; **Mo's Annex**, 657 SW Bay Blvd.; **Newport Chevron**, 1517 N. Coast Hwy.; **Raindance at NYE Beach**, 316 NW Coast St.; **Rite Aid**, 2336 N. Coast Hwy.; **Shell 503**, 22 N. Coast Hwy.; **South Beach Grocery**, 3650 SW Coast Hwy.; **US Market #104**, 1445 N. Coast Hwy.; **Village Market & Deli**, 741 #B NW 3rd St.; **JC Market**, 107 N. Coast Hwy.; **Made in Oregon**, 342 SW Bay Blvd.; **NYE Beach Market**, 526 NW Coast St. #3 and **Mai's Asian Market**, 256-A E. Olive St.

The following licensees did not pass the sales check: **Bay Market**, 644 SW Bay Blvd.; **Bayscapes Gallery**, 333 SW Bay Blvd.; **Beven's Market & Deli**, 960 SW Coast Hwy.; **Bier One**, 424 SW Coast Hwy.; **La Maison**, 315 SW 9th St.; **Local Ocean Seafoods**, 213 SE Bay Blvd.; **NYE Beach Gallery**, 715 NW Third St.; **Oceana Natural Food Co-op**, 159 SE 2nd St.; **Safeway Store #378**, 2220 N. Coast Hwy.; **TR Mini Mart II**, 910 N. Coast Hwy.; **The Lighthouse Loft**, 456 SW Bay Blvd. and **The Main Sail**, 338 SW Bay Blvd.

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