



Bluffton Police Department

DATE: June 17, 2016

RELEASE NUMBER: 16-50

Alcohol Compliance Checks

Who:

Bluffton Police Department and South Carolina Law Enforcement Agency

What:

Alcohol Compliance Checks

Where:

Bluffton Bars/Restaurants/Stores

When:

Thursday, June 16, 2016

On Thursday, June 16, 2016 members of the Bluffton Police Department Special Investigations Unit assisted the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division in twenty-six alcohol compliance checks at various businesses in Bluffton. Alcohol compliance checks are a type of environmental prevention that deters alcohol outlets from selling alcohol to underage youth. If during a compliance check youth are able to successfully buy from the establishment, the business is cited.

Of the establishment's Bluffton PD investigators and SLED agents visited, six were ticketed for selling alcohol to an underage person who was working with police. The businesses cited include: Amigo's Café, Walnuts Café, MI Tierra Cantina, Outback Steakhouse, Rancho Alegre Cuban Restaurant, and Agave Restaurant.

"When we assist SLED with compliance checks, we hope that all of our businesses are following the law and checking identification accordingly. Unfortunately, that didn't happen this time around. However, I would like to thank the other twenty businesses that did follow the law and hope they will lead by example," said Bluffton Police Chief Joey Reynolds. The businesses in compliance with the checks include: Truffles, Jim N Nicks, R Bar, Supermercado La Mexicana, Nickel Pumpers, Fat Patties, Old Town Dispensary, Cinco, Hinchey's Chicago Bar and Grill, Chin Dynasty, Parker's Gas Station, Southern Barrel, Station 300, Breland's Liquors, Blue Water Gas Station, Pour Richards, La Nortena, Big Jims Liquor, Enmark Gas Station, and Baleada Express.

Each business ticketed was given a criminal violation and an administrative violation. Each criminal violation ticket was in the amount of \$470, and the administrative fine is set by the Department of Revenue which can vary depending on if the establishment has been fined in the past. The criminal violation ticket was given to the person who provided the underage individual the alcohol, and the administrative ticket was given to the owner of the establishment.

Bluffton Police assist SLED and the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office when alcohol compliance checks are completed within the Town.

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