



News Release

Oregon Liquor Control Commission
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Hood River scores 100% in OLCC minor sales checks

Portland, OR – One hundred percent of businesses in Hood River passed Oregon Liquor Control Commission check for alcohol sales to minors.

The Hood River sales check took place June 27 as part of a STOP grant administered by the Hood River County Commission on Children and Families. OLCC and Hood River Police visited eight premises. The 100% percent passing rate is well above the 2008 statewide average of 78 percent.

“These are the kind of results we’re hoping to get each time we go out,” said Carl Lewis, OLCC Regional Enforcement Manager. “Everything that our licensees can do to prevent minors from getting alcohol creates safer communities for Oregonian families.”

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.

The following licensees were tested and passed the compliance check: **1301 Steak & Spirits**, 1301 Belmont; **Full Sail Brewing Company**, 506 Columbia; **Hood River Texaco & Marina Mart**, 1046 E. Marina Way; **Rosauers Super Market**, 1867 12th St.; **Smiley’s Red Barn**, 2965 Ehreck Hill Rd.; **The Gift House**, 204 Oak St.; **Six Street Bistro & Loft**, 509 Cascade Ave.; and **The South Bank Kitchen**, 404 Oak St.

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.