



# News Release

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## Ninety two percent of businesses in Grants Pass and Medford pass OLCC minor sales check

**Medford, OR** – Eleven out of twelve businesses in Grants Pass and Medford passed a check for alcohol sales to minors Aug. 19. The sales check was performed by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission.

The 92 percent compliance rate was well above the 2008 statewide average of 78 percent.

“We love to see these kinds of results,” said Linda Ignowski, Director of Regulatory Services. “Underage drinking needs to be taken seriously. Research shows teenage binge drinking can have long-term effects like adult alcoholism and depression.”

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.

### Businesses that passed:

**Mario’s Sandwiches #5**, 143 SE J. St., Grants Pass

**Mario’s #2**, 1889 NE 7<sup>th</sup> St., Grants Pass

**Abby’s Pizza Inn of Grants Pass**, 205 Beacon Dr., Grants Pass

**Albertson’s #501**, 340 NE Beacon Dr., Grants Pass

**Alibi Tavern**, 1220 NW 6<sup>th</sup> St., Grants Pass

**China Hut Restaurant & Lounge**, 1434 NW 6<sup>th</sup> St., Grants Pass

**Circle J Café**, 241 SW G St., Grants Pass

**Fireball Mini Mart**, 1044 NE 6<sup>th</sup>, Grants Pass

**Gifts to Remember**, 202 SW 6<sup>th</sup> St., Grants Pass

**The Laughing Clam**, 121 SW G St., Grants Pass

**East Main Texaco**, 600 E. Main St., Medford

### Business that failed:

**M Street Market**, 1024 SE M St., Grants Pass

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. (*Samples of OR Driver Licenses for minor and adult attached*)

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 that identifies them as under 21 and do not disguise their age or lie to encourage the sale of alcohol.

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*“Promoting Responsible Alcohol Sales and Service”*