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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 18, 2009 **Contact:** Lieutenant Daniel J. Stroski
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CVS/pharmacy Store clerk arrested for selling tobacco to a minor police decoy

(Woodland, CA) – District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that on August 15, 2009, a Davis woman, working at CVS/pharmacy Store #9142, previously known as Long’s Drug Store, located at 1550 E Covell Blvd, Davis, CA was arrested for selling tobacco to a sixteen-year-old under cover police decoy. Investigators from the Yolo County District Attorney’s office continue to conduct sting operations, funded entirely by licensing fees collected from those businesses who wish to sell tobacco within the City of Davis.

During the operations, the District Attorney’s Office use under age minors as decoys. The decoys are supervised by peace officers, who enter into tobacco selling establishments, in Davis and the County, for the purpose of purchasing tobacco. At 12:15 P.M., a sixteen-year-old decoy entered CVS/pharmacy Store #9142 and successfully purchased a single pack of cigarettes. The decoy handed his/her ID card after being requested. Despite the card showing that he/she didn’t turn eighteen years old until 2011; plus the clerk’s need to override the cash register computer, warning of a need to check for ID, the sale was allowed to occur.

Jeff Reisig says that “This program continues to be very successful. Notwithstanding this single occurrence, twelve other businesses rightfully denied the sales of tobacco to police decoys.” Lt. Dan Stroski, who supervises the tobacco sting detail, says “Follow your instincts. Even after the sale of tobacco to this minor occurred, the clerk spoke out to the next customer in line, (the undercover police officer), and said that the person who just bought tobacco looked sixteen years old.” The undercover officer advised the clerk that she was correct and that she was under arrest for sales of tobacco to a minor.

The offending clerk was issued a citation and ordered to appear in court on September 23, 2009 at the Yolo County Superior Court. Should the clerk plea or be found guilty, she could receive a fine of up to \$200, and the store can lose the ir privilege of selling tobacco for ten days. For more information, contact Lt. Dan Stroski at (530) 666-8380.

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