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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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POLICE DECOYS USED TO MAKE AN ARREST

Woodland, CA. August 25, 2008. The Yolo County District Attorney's Office announced that during its continuing effort to combat the sales of tobacco to minors, one Davis resident has been arrested. On August 24, 2008, investigators from the Yolo County District Attorney's office conducted an uncover buy operation in the City of Davis. During this operation, the District Attorney's Office used minor decoys, supervised by peace officers, to enter tobacco selling establishments and attempt to purchase tobacco.

At approximately 6:30 PM, a sixteen year old police decoy entered Anderson Davis Shell Station, located at 1944 Anderson Road, in Davis, CA. The decoy asked for long cut chewing tobacco. After some discussion of which can was desired, the 21 year old female clerk sold the product to the decoy without asking for any proof of age or identification. After her arrest, the clerk said "I always check ID's." During tobacco stings, police decoys always have a California State Identification Card. Had this decoy been asked to produce an ID card, the ID card would have shown that the decoy didn't turn 18 until the year 2010.

District Attorney Jeff Reisig says that "despite the one sale, its important to note that eight other businesses refused to sell to this same decoy. This shows that the program is working." Lt. Dan Stroski who supervises the tobacco sting detail, says "We make every effort to present decoys that look their actual age. Businesses that sell tobacco have a duty to check those ID cards whenever they are making a sale."

The clerk was issued a citation and ordered to appear in court on 10/13/08. Should the clerk plea or be found guilty of the charges, the business owner (s) could lose their license to sell tobacco for ten days for a first violation.

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