



COUNTY OF YOLO
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
JEFF W. REISIG, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

301 SECOND STREET - WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA 95695 - 530.666.8180 - FAX 530.666.8185

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 21, 2009 **Contact:** Lieutenant Daniel J. Stroski
Phone: (530) 666-8380

Yolo District Attorney's Office uses decoys to make tobacco arrests

(Woodland, CA) – January 21, 2009 District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that during its continuing effort to combat the sales of tobacco to minors, three Yolo County residents were arrested on January 19, 2009 for selling tobacco to minors. Investigators from the Yolo County District Attorney's office conducted an uncover buy operation, funded entirely by licensing fees collected from businesses who wish to sell tobacco 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.

Between the hours of 2:35 PM and 3:40 PM, three separate sixteen year old decoys entered three separate stores and successfully purchased tobacco products ranging from cigarettes to chewing tobacco. Contacted and cited were clerks from:

Arco AM/PM Mini Mart, located at 333 Mace Blvd, Davis, CA.
Davis 1 Stop Union 76, located at 2002 Lyndell Terrace, Davis, CA.
Circle K Market, located at 1930 Lake Blvd., Davis, CA.

District Attorney Jeff Reisig said that "This program has now been in place for about three years. Because of innovative city ordinances, businesses that sell tobacco to minors may lose or have their privilege of selling tobacco suspended." Lt. Dan Stroski who supervises the tobacco sting detail, said "In two cases the clerks checked for ID and failed to see that the decoy didn't turn eighteen until the year 2010. The third clerk never bothered to ask for an ID at all."

Each clerk was issued a citation and ordered to appear in court on 3/9/09. Should the clerks plea or be found guilty, they could receive a fine of up to \$200, and the business owners can have his /her licenses to sell tobacco suspended for ten days.

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