



# News Release

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## Ninety four percent of businesses in The Dalles pass OLCC minor sales check

**THE DALLES, OR** – Sixteen out of 17 businesses in The Dalles passed a check for alcohol sales to minors on Feb. 26. The compliance check was conducted by OLCC and The Dalles Police Department. The 94 percent passing rate is well above the 2008 state average of 78 percent.

The compliance checks were conducted in collaboration with the Reducing Youth Access to Alcohol Project in The Dalles. The research project, funded by National Institute for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, is being implemented in eighteen communities across the state of Oregon. Its goal is to reduce commercial and social access to alcohol by minors. The project's activities include rewarding store employees who refuse to sell alcohol without first checking I.D., providing a contract to local law enforcement to enforce underage drinking laws, as well as creating a proclamation that includes endorsements from community members in support of keeping alcohol out of the hands of minors.

"Underage drinking can damage a teen's still developing brain," said Carl Lewis, OLCC Regional Enforcement Manager. "One business out of 17 is terrific results. It's good to see that our outreach to licensees is producing results."

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 1,400 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: **Bi-Mart #645**, 3300 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.; **Dinty's Market (West)**, 806 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.; **Safeway Store #1489**, 520 Mt. Hood St.; **Allen's Food Center**, 516 W. 9<sup>th</sup>; **Jack's Mini Market #2**, 3212 Bret Clodfelter Way; **Hatt's 76 Fuel Stop**, 301 W. 3<sup>rd</sup>; **Poppy's Mini Mart**, 2718 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.; **Downtown Chevron & Foodmart**, 206 W. 3<sup>rd</sup>; **West Second St. Food Mart**, 1433 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.; **Rite Aid #5334**, 1400 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.; **The Dalles Grocery Outlet**, 1300 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.; **Fred Meyer**, 1215 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.; **La Michoacana**, 1210 Kelly Ave.; **Lone Pine 76**, 100 Lone Pine Dr.; **Healthy Harvest Market**, 316 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. and **The Dalles Liquor Store**, 1008 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.

The following licensee was tested and failed the compliance check: **Westgate Market**, 816 Chenoweth Loop.

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.

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.

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.

*Promoting the public interest through responsible alcohol sales and service.*