FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 

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Be On The Look Out For Under Age Alcohol Stings

The Travis County Sheriff’s Office will be working with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission to conduct more Minor Alcohol Stings in Travis County over the next few months. West Travis County, including Lake Travis, will be a focal point but all areas of the county will be covered by the increased enforcement.

Minor Alcohol Stings are investigations into the purchase of alcohol by minors from bars, restaurants, convenience stores, liquor stores and any establishment that sells alcohol. The sting operations involve undercover deputies and a minor, age 16 to 18. The minor must have a valid ID and present it if asked. They also must state their real age if asked. If the minor is successful in purchasing alcohol the deputies on the scene will arrest the clerk on the spot for Sale to a Minor, which is a Class A Misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in the County Jail and or a $4,000.00 fine. In addition the establishment can receive a civil penalty from the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

There were 23 arrests in the 149 Minor Alcohol Stings conducted by the Sheriff’s Office in 2008. So far, in 2009 there have bee 11 arrests in the 56 total stings. Statistically this means we have gone from an 85% compliance rate in 2008 to an 80% compliance rate this year.

Note: An interesting feature of the Travis County Minor Alcohol Stings is that they are conducted by our Reserve Deputies. Reserve Deputies are fully trained law enforcement officers who volunteer their time to the county thereby saving the county several thousand dollars in salaries and a tax savings for the citizen’s of Travis County.

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