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Released By: Wendy Rose

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Underage Alcohol Sales Operation

Sarasota County Sheriff's Deputies conducted an undercover operation on Monday, June 29, 2009 and Thursday, July 2, 2009, to target underage alcohol sales by store clerks. This was done in conjunction with the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco. One eighteen year old subject was used to attempt the purchase of alcoholic beverages from businesses throughout Sarasota County. During this operation, 28 stores were visited. Alcohol was purchased at six of these locations. Six notices to appear were issued for selling alcohol to a person under 21 in relation to this operation.

The locations where underage alcohol sales were made are as follows:

1. 2800 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota (McCarley Oil #15 BP Station)
2. 3637 Bahia Vista Street, Sarasota (A Food Place)
3. 6212 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota (Marathon)
4. 2522 Stickney Pt. Rd., Sarasota (BP Station)
5. 4235 Clark Rd., Sarasota (Easy Stop Convenience Store)
6. 5761 Bee Ridge Rd., Sarasota (Radiant)

Summer break normally results in an influx of underage students purchasing and consuming alcoholic beverages. These factors result in increased criminal activity, including DUI, criminal mischief, disorderly intoxication, and open house parties. The Sarasota County Sheriff's Office is concerned about the illegal sale of alcohol to minors and will continue undercover operations to deter these preventable crimes.