NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Police cite three liquor stores for selling to minor

Four other businesses refused sales

Howard County police conducted a test of county liquor establishments on Friday that resulted in three businesses being cited for selling alcohol to underage customers. St. John's Liquors in Ellicott City, 7-11 on Frederick Road in Ellicott City and All Saints Liquors in Laurel have been notified that they will be brought before the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board for violation hearings.

As part of the test, a 20-year-old volunteer working with police entered the establishments and attempted to purchase alcohol. In all of the tests, the clerks asked the volunteer for his driver's license. The volunteer displayed his genuine Pennsylvania driver's license, which clearly indicates he is under 21 years of age. The clerks at St. John's Liquors, 7-11 and All Saints Liquors completed the transactions despite the volunteer being underage.

Four other businesses fared well in the test, with employees following all appropriate laws. Clerks at those establishments reviewed the volunteer's driver's license and refused to complete the sale. Police Chief William McMahon is sending letters of appreciation to employees of Spirit Shop in Ellicott City, Troy Farms Liquors in Elkridge, Mel's Liquors in Jessup and JP's Fine Wine & Spirits in Jessup. These letters commend the employees for their commitment to curbing underage drinking.

These periodic tests are part of an ongoing effort to combat underage drinking in Howard County. Police encourage citizens who are aware of underage drinking or establishments that sell alcohol to minors to call 410-313-STOP. The police department continues to focus on reducing inappropriate use of alcohol and drunken driving, particularly among young people.

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