



TERREBONNE PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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News Release

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The Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office was involved with a series of undercover operations that has led to the crackdown of underage drinking in Terrebonne Parish. In October 2009, TPSO was awarded a grant from the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission. The grant was known as the JUDE (Juvenile Underage Drinking Enforcement) program. The purpose was to provide funding to the agency to pay officers to identify underage subjects in possession of alcoholic beverages throughout the parish.

Several operations were conducted every month from October 2009 through September 2010. The operations included using undercover officers under the age of 21 who entered local convenience stores, bar and retail outlets and attempted to purchase alcoholic beverages. Officers also conducted operations that included randomly checking local bars and patrolling special events in downtown Houma and Mardi Gras parades.

The multiple operations led to the summons of 268 Terrebonne parish residents. The summons were not only issued to subjects under the age of 21 who were found in possession of alcoholic beverages, but also to the cashiers and bartenders who sold the beverages to the undercover officers and to subjects over the age of 21 who purchased alcoholic beverages for underage persons.

Approximately 100 local establishments were visited throughout the year. The hours of the operations were varied. Of the 268 summons issued, many were to cashiers and patrons of the same locations. There were 25 locations in the parish that were visited on multiple occasions and never sold to any of the undercover officers. Those establishments were awarded with a certificate of thanks during a recent visit to each of the stores.

The following is a list of those establishments:

Bowl South, Casino's, The Waterfall Lounge, TTT, Bayou Cane Beer Parlor, R & R, LaRousse's, Yesterday's, Wuz Rat's Nest, The Coon House, Ricochet, Mahoney's, Afficiando's, Bayou Magasin, Ashland Mini-Mart, Scotty's Mobile Mart, Piggly Wiggly, Tiger's Lounge, Spahr's, Gene's Bar, Flintstone's, Out da Box, La Casa del Sol (east side), Phantom's Bar and The Olive Garden.

Although the problem of underage alcohol consumption still exists, officers who were involved with this program noticed that the impact of their visits to the establishments has had a positive impact. Several stores have even recently purchased equipment that scans a customer's identification card that allows the cashier to verify that person's age.

The Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office was recently awarded the grant monies again for the 2010-2011 year. The operations will continue to vary and hopefully continue to make an impact on underage drinking in this parish.

Sheriff Vernon Bourgeois