

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Underage Alcohol Sales Compliance Operation”

Richland County, April 14, 2008

On Monday, April 14, 2008, Investigators from the METRICH Enforcement Unit, Richland County Sheriff's Department, Shelby Police Department and Staff Members from CACY (Community Action for Capable Youth) conducted an Underage Alcohol Sales Compliance Operation. During the operation, CACY and the Richland County Explorers enlisted the assistance of a number of young people under the age of 21 years old. These young people were taken by investigators to various liquor permit retail locations through out Mansfield and Richland County in an attempt to purchase alcoholic beverages, which if sold to an underage person is a violation of the Ohio Revised Code. In all, seventy-eight (78) retail locations were checked. Employees at ten (10) or 12.8% of those locations sold some type of alcoholic beverage to one of the underage persons. Each employee that sold an alcoholic beverage to one of the underage persons was cited for the violation and will be required to appear in either the Mansfield or Shelby Municipal Court at a later date. Each case will be presented to the Ohio Investigative Unit for potential citations of the Liquor Permit Holder at each location.

We would remind all owners and employees of retail locations with liquor permits that Ohio Law forbids the sale of any alcoholic beverage to any person under the age of 21 years and that unannounced compliance checks will continue to be conducted in the future to insure strict compliance to the Law.

METRICH is a ten county decentralized task force in North Central Ohio whose mission is to improve the quality of life for the citizens we serve by reducing the availability of illegal drugs and weapons through proactive enforcement efforts. The success of METRICH is a tribute to the cooperation and support within the Law Enforcement Community in the METRICH region and to those citizens who have chosen to improve the quality of life in their communities by assisting METRICH in reporting suspicious activity and valuable information.

Citizens may report suspicious activity to the crime hot lines at:
1-800-589-DARE and www.METRICH.com

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