



# Elk Grove Police Department

## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **MINOR DRINKING ...A MAJOR PROBLEM**

ELK GROVE, CA – On Wednesday, August 27, 2008 at 10:00 a.m., the Elk Grove Police Department in partnership with the newly established Sacramento Regional Youth and Alcohol Coalition, will be conducting a press conference at the Elk Grove Regional Park Youth Center (9950 Elk Grove-Florin Road) to introduce a new initiative to fight underage drinking in the Sacramento region.

In California, teenagers are dying because of alcohol-related incidents. In an effort to address this growing challenge, a new coalition has formed in an attempt to save young lives through educational and enforcement efforts. Across California, some 222 young people under the age of 21 died in alcohol-related automobile accidents in 2006. This new coalition was formed to raise awareness about the dangers of underage drinking. In Elk Grove alone, there were 132 arrests of young adults between the ages of 19-24 for driving under the influence.

Nationwide, nearly 7.2 million teens are considered binge drinkers. These teens drank more than five drinks on occasion, and more than two million are classified as heavy drinkers.

In short, minor drinking is a major problem in the Sacramento region. To address it, stakeholders from all walks of life; law enforcement, advocates, health care, state agencies, coaches, parents, and students from local high schools and colleges, have formed the Sacramento Regional Youth and Alcohol Coalition, to reduce underage drinking and impaired driving by teens in the Sacramento region.

The broadly based, public-private coalition will work to raise awareness of the magnitude of the problem by bringing people to the table with the power to address these issues with evidence-based solutions.

The Sacramento Regional Youth and Alcohol Coalition will meet on a bi-monthly basis to collect data, develop objectives and identify resources available to confront the problem of underage alcohol consumption in the Sacramento area. With a mission to improve the health and safety of adolescents through positive change of community response to underage alcohol use, it offers free membership to all organizations and agencies interested in preventing underage drinking. For more information about the Coalition, visit [www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/injuryprevention](http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/injuryprevention) or call Christy Adams at the UC Davis Trauma Prevention Program (916) 734-9794.

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