

MEDIA ADVISORY

Graduating Class of 2008 thanks law enforcement agencies for keeping youth safe and sober *Underage drinking enforcement saves lives*

Who: Local youths representing the graduating class of 2008 along with East County regional law enforcement partners, education leaders, parents and public health advocates.

***Kyle Brangwynne 2008 Graduate, Steele Canyon High
Todd Moore, El Cajon Police Department
Jennifer Hill, California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control***

Also available for interview:

- ◆ Chief Pat Sprecco, El Cajon Police Department
- ◆ Officer Jim Seal, Santee Sheriffs Command Station
- ◆ Officer Dave Bond, La Mesa Police Department
- ◆ Officer Peggy Fraley, Lemon Grove Sheriffs Command Station
- ◆ Officer Brian Pennings, California Highway Patrol (confirmed)

When: June 5, 2008 1:00 pm

Where: Harry Griffen Park, City of La Mesa
9550 Mildren Street (see link below & click on *map*)

<http://www.ci.la-mesa.ca.us/index.asp?NID=391>

What: Representatives of the graduating Class of 2008 present oversized thank you card to local law enforcement for efforts to prevent underage drinking. Over the past year youth access to alcohol has been reduced by local law enforcement including:

- ◆ Retail sales to minors reduced from a high of 58% (6/07) to only 3.7% (5/08)
- ◆ Shoulder-tap operations (third party transactions): 32% of adults contacted purchased alcohol for the minor (October 2007) reduced to 5.7% in May 2008
- ◆ Social host enforcement of teen parties where underage drinking takes place will be a priority over the coming months.

Why: Underage drinking is a factor in the top three causes of death for young people including, suicide, homicide and alcohol-related vehicle crashes. In 2007, 222 people under age of 21 died in alcohol related crashes in California. Grossmont High School District students participating in the California Healthy Kids Survey (Fall 2006) indicate:

- ◆ 24% of 11th grade students reported drinking 5 or more alcohol drinks within a couple of hours in the previous 30 days
- ◆ 42% have been very drunk or sick after drinking alcohol (11th grade)
- ◆ 17% of 11th grade students report that they "like" to drink "enough to feel it a lot"