

8 businesses cited during undercover alcohol compliance checks

Written by Nick Amatangelo

Project Extra Mile reported Monday that eight businesses in the metro were cited for selling alcohol to minors during an undercover compliance check conducted over the weekend.

If found guilty of violations, three of the businesses will face enhanced penalties because they've been cited for selling to minors previously during the last four years.

They are:

- NP Mart, 5608 Ames Avenue
- Planet Sub, 8990 West Center Road
- Voodoo Taco, at Nebraska Crossing in Gretna

The other five businesses cited in the most-recent compliance check are:

- La Casa West, 610 South 168th Street
- Macdaros Pub & Pizzeria, 10726 South 204th Street
- Margaritas, 4915 South 72nd Street
- Taqueria Los Compadres, 10904 Q Street
- Therapy Bar & Grill, 5059 South 108th Street

Project Extra Mile worked with area law enforcement on Friday and Saturday, August 9th and 10th to check alcohol sales at 227 retail outlets in Douglas and Sarpy Counties.

Undercover law enforcement and teenagers checked to see if employees would serve alcohol to someone they shouldn't.

"Establishments who hold liquor licenses are supposed to make sure it doesn't happen on their property or in their establishment," the undercover deputy told KETV Newswatch 7. "So we do these checks to make sure it doesn't happen."

The partnership between law enforcement and Project Extra Mile started in 1997. Since then, Project Extra Mile executive director Chris Wagner says they've seen the number of businesses selling to minors drop from 40% down to under 10%.

"We're doing our best year-round to make sure alcohol is not reaching the hands of youth, Wagner said. "We're just really doing our best to try to prevent those harms that can come as a result of underage drinking."

Wagner said keeping alcohol out of the hands of minors can prevent a tragedy, such as the June crash in Gretna that killed four teenagers and injured a fifth.

"We've seen with recent tragedies it's important to keep alcohol out of the hands of kids, so making sure that we at least reduce the retail access of that alcohol is really important," Wagner said.

Businesses that get caught selling to minors during one of these checks can face a fine or have their liquor license suspended. Wagner said they do several of these kinds of checks annually. This weekend was their third time in the metro this year.