



NEWS RELEASE

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All Businesses in Washington County Pass Compliance Checks

BLAIR, NEB - As a result of compliance checks conducted at on- and off-sale alcohol retailers, no businesses were cited for selling alcohol to a minor.

As schools near their spring breaks, law enforcement agencies were out conducting compliance checks on March 6th to prevent underage drinking and its harms. The checks resulted in 40 (100%) of the 40 retail outlets checked in Washington County refusing the sale of alcohol to minors -- all 40 businesses check the minors' IDs. A summary sheet of the compliance check results and a full list of businesses checked can be found by [clicking here](#).

"We're really pleased to see that no businesses sold alcohol to minors during these checks," said Blair Police Department Captain Aaron Barrow. "After the recent underage drinking tragedies in Gretna and Elkhorn, the Blair Police Department and the Nebraska State Patrol wanted to ensure that youth are not able to access alcohol in Washington County. We look forward to continuing to work with with our partners to ensure this trend continues."

Project Extra Mile Executive Director Chris Wagner thanked the law enforcement agencies involved: "We want to thank the Blair Police Department and the Nebraska State Patrol for stepping up and conducting the first compliance checks in Washington County since 2015. Regular and consistent enforcement of the minimum drinking age law keeps our youth, families and communities safe."

Six officers from the Nebraska State Patrol and Blair Police Department participated in the underage drinking enforcement effort.

To assist in reporting underage drinking or adults providing alcohol to minors, call the statewide tip line at **1-866-Must-B-21 (687-8221)**. **It's anonymous and it's the right call.** Individuals are urged to call 911 to report an underage drinking party in progress.

Heightened enforcements are supported by the Nebraska Department of Transportation - Highway Safety Office and Grant #93.243 under the Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnership for Success Grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Center for Substance Abuse Prevention through the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare. The Nebraska Department of Transportation - Highway Safety Office also funds the tip line. Project Extra Mile helped to coordinate the enforcement efforts.

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Mission: Advocating for evidence-based policies and practices to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harms.