

Narragansett Police Department

40 Caswell Street, Narragansett, RI 02882

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 16, 2008

REVIEW DATE: As Necessary

REVISED DATE:

RIPAC REFERENCE:

ENFORCEMENT OF UNDERAGE DRINKING LAWS (350.02)

01 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines regarding the enforcement of Rhode Island underage drinking laws and subsequent administrative referrals to local liquor licensing authorities.

02 Policy

The Narragansett Police Department takes a firm stance against underage drinking and established this policy to combat such illegal activity. The Department's underage drinking enforcement program consists of various types of compliance checks and is designed to reduce the availability of alcohol to persons under 21 years of age.

03 Procedures

A. Compliance Checks

1. Announced Compliance Checks: Police officers in plain clothes will work together with local liquor establishment owners and employees to prevent the illegal sale of alcoholic beverages to underage persons.
 - a. Officers will arrest/summons underage subjects attempting to purchase alcohol.
 - b. Officers will arrest/summons underage persons who possess false identification.
 - c. Liquor establishments will not be penalized.
2. Unannounced Compliance Checks: Police officers in plain clothes will be working with an underage individual in an attempt to purchase alcohol from liquor establishments. Prior to the start of these unannounced compliance checks, the Department shall notify, in writing, each liquor establishment of this program.
 - a. For a first violation, officers will arrest/summons the individual who serves or sells to the underage individual and the owner of the liquor establishment will be notified, in writing, of the illegal sale.
 - b. For the second violation, officers will arrest/summons the individual who serves or sells the alcohol to the underage individual and the owner will be notified, in

writing, of the second illegal sale. Police reports regarding both incidents may be referred to the Town Council for a show cause hearing.

1. The Police Chief shall determine whether a second violation shall be referred to the Town Council for a show cause hearing.
2. Such determination shall be based on the timeliness of the second violation, severity of the charge, past history of the liquor establishment, and any other factors deemed relevant to the investigation.

B. Underage Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Patrols:

1. Police officers in marked vehicles will patrol areas where juveniles/underage persons frequent and take appropriate action when alcohol is discovered.
2. Police officers will be on the lookout for underage DUI operators and underage persons transporting alcohol in motor vehicles, pursuant to establishing the necessary probable cause for stopping the vehicle.
3. Police officers on this DUI detail shall respond and assist regularly-scheduled patrols when they discover an underage person in possession of alcohol or respond to a house party involving underage persons and alcohol, whenever possible.
4. All police officers working these details shall complete an *Underage Alcohol Enforcement Program Activity Report* before securing from each detail. This report shall be forwarded to the special detail officer.

C. Action Plan

1. The Department shall ensure that an “Action Plan” is prepared prior to the start of each underage drinking enforcement program.
2. Action Plan activities shall consider the following:
 - a. Primary causes and factors contributing to these alcohol problems.
 - b. Problems that result from behaviors associated with underage drinking in the community.
 - c. Existing community efforts implemented to address the underage drinking problem, which may include preventative programs during or after school, local policies and law enforcement efforts.
3. Ensuring that these strategies address the causes of current underage drinking problems in town.

E. Federal and State Grants

1. The Department shall actively pursue any and all federal and state grants allocating money to underage drinking programs.
2. The Department shall complete all necessary report requirements in a timely fashion.
3. The Lieutenant who oversees grant writing shall schedule police officers to work special underage DUI details, review activity reports and maintain statistics based on these reports.

F. Media Releases

1. The Department will work with federal, local and state agencies to coordinate media releases regarding the results of underage drinking enforcement programs.
2. Media releases shall not contain the names, ages, addresses, etc. of any person under 18 years of age.
3. No media releases shall be disseminated during ongoing investigations.

By Order Of:

Chief of Police