



**INVESTIGATION REPORT**  
 State of California  
 Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control  
 LB/LAKEWOOD  
 3950 PARAMOUNT BLVD, STE 250  
 LAKEWOOD, CA 90712  
 (562) 982-1337



|                               |                                     |                    |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. REPORT NUMBER<br>25-03-047 | 2. ASSIGNMENT NUMBER<br>LB-10153996 | 3. PAGE<br>1 of 25 |
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4. CODE SECTIONS INVESTIGATED (Section number and title)  
 25658 (a) Business and Professions Code: Furnishing/Selling Alcohol to a Minor  
 25661 (a) Business and Professions Code: Possession of a False ID as a Minor  
 25662 (a) Business and Professions Code: Minor in Possession of Alcoholic Beverage

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 5. DAY/DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT<br>Friday/August 8, 2025/Various times (see report) | 6. LOCATION OF INCIDENT<br>74 Pier Avenue, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254 |
|--|--|

CODE: L – Licensee; E – Employee; V – Victim; W – Witness; S – Suspect; O – Other

|              |   |                                   |
|--------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 7. CODE<br>L | 8. NAME (Last, first, middle)<br>Tran, [REDACTED] | 9. TELEPHONE NUMBER<br>[REDACTED] |
|--------------|---|-----------------------------------|

|                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 10. HOME ADDRESS<br>[REDACTED] | 11. OTHER ADDRESS<br>[REDACTED] |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|

|                   |                 |                             |               |                       |                   |                  |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 12. RACE<br>Asian | 13. SEX<br>Male | 14. BIRTHDATE<br>[REDACTED] | 15. AGE<br>63 | 16. APPARENTAGE<br>NA | 17. HAIR<br>Black | 18. EYES<br>Gray | 19. HEIGHT<br>5-4 | 20. WEIGHT<br>116 |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 21. OPERATOR'S LICENSE NUMBER<br>[REDACTED] | 22. CLOTHING DESCRIPTION<br>N/A |
|---|---------------------------------|

23. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION  
 Licensee for Roberts Liquor

**VEHICLE**

|                    |           |          |          |           |           |
|--------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 24. LICENSE<br>N/A | 25. STATE | 26. YEAR | 27. MAKE | 28. MODEL | 29. COLOR |
|--------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| 30. REGISTERED OWNER | 31. ADDRESS |
|----------------------|-------------|

**32. SUMMARY OF REPORT**

On Friday, August 8, 2025, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control and the Hermosa Beach Police Department conducted an ABC enforcement/compliance in the city of Hermosa Beach.

During this operation, I (Agent Michael Connolly #1191) contacted a youthful appearing male, later identified as [REDACTED] 17-years-old. [REDACTED] exited Roberts Liquor carrying a 12-pack of Twisted Tea Hard Iced Tea. Based on his youthful appearance and possession of alcohol, I conducted an investigatory stop on [REDACTED] for the possible violation of 25662 (a) BPC: Minor in Possession of Alcoholic Beverage. [REDACTED] admitted to being underage and purchasing alcohol at Roberts Liquor using fraudulent identification. He was issued a citation and released to his Aunt, Caldwell, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

A backtrack investigation was initiated, which discovered that the clerk/cashier at Roberts Liquor, [REDACTED] Hung [REDACTED] did not complete an adequate check of [REDACTED] identification during the transaction.

**ABC USE ONLY**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| LICENSEE NAME<br>Tran, [REDACTED]                           | DBA<br>Roberts Liquor                   |
| PREMISES ADDRESS<br>74 Pier Avenue, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254 | LICENSE NUMBER<br>21-318181             |
| [REDACTED]  | BUSINESS PHONE NUMBER<br>(310) 372-8200 |
| [REDACTED]  | DATE<br>8/22/2025                       |
| [REDACTED]  | ROUTING<br>Admin/Criminal               |



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CODE: L – Licensee; E – Employee; V – Victim; W – Witness; S – Suspect; O – Other

|   |   |  |                                   |                        |                   |                   |                    |                   |
|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 7. CODE<br>S-1/E-1  | 8. NAME (Last, first, middle)<br>[REDACTED] Hung [REDACTED] |  | 9. TELEPHONE NUMBER<br>[REDACTED] |                        |                   |                   |                    |                   |
| 10. HOME ADDRESS<br>[REDACTED]                                    |   |  | 11. OTHER ADDRESS<br>[REDACTED]   |                        |                   |                   |                    |                   |
| 12. RACE<br>Asian   | 13. SEX<br>Male   | 14. BIRTHDATE<br>[REDACTED] 1                    | 15. AGE<br>33                     | 16. APPARENTAGE<br>N/A | 17. HAIR<br>Black | 18. EYES<br>Brown | 19. HEIGHT<br>5-07 | 20. WEIGHT<br>135 |
| 21. OPERATOR'S LICENSE NUMBER<br>[REDACTED]                       |   | 22. CLOTHING DESCRIPTION<br>(see video/pictures) |                                   |                        |                   |                   |                    |                   |
| 23. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION<br>Clerk/Cashier on-duty 08/08/2025 |   |  |                                   |                        |                   |                   |                    |                   |

CODE: L – Licensee; E – Employee; V – Victim; W – Witness; S – Suspect; O – Other

|   |  |  |                                   |                        |                   |                   |                    |                   |
|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 7. CODE<br>E-2  | 8. NAME (Last, first, middle)<br>[REDACTED] Jan [REDACTED] |  | 9. TELEPHONE NUMBER<br>[REDACTED] |                        |                   |                   |                    |                   |
| 10. HOME ADDRESS<br>[REDACTED]                                    |  |  | 11. OTHER ADDRESS<br>[REDACTED]   |                        |                   |                   |                    |                   |
| 12. RACE<br>Asian   | 13. SEX<br>Female  | 14. BIRTHDATE<br>[REDACTED]                      | 15. AGE<br>59                     | 16. APPARENTAGE<br>N/A | 17. HAIR<br>Black | 18. EYES<br>Black | 19. HEIGHT<br>5-00 | 20. WEIGHT<br>220 |
| 21. OPERATOR'S LICENSE NUMBER<br>[REDACTED]                       |  | 22. CLOTHING DESCRIPTION<br>(see video/pictures) |                                   |                        |                   |                   |                    |                   |
| 23. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION<br>Clerk/Cashier on-duty 08/08/2025 |  |  |                                   |                        |                   |                   |                    |                   |

CODE: L – Licensee; E – Employee; V – Victim; W – Witness; S – Suspect; O – Other

|   |  |                                 |  |                        |                   |                   |                    |                   |
|---|--|---------------------------------|--|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 7. CODE<br>E-3  | 8. NAME (Last, first, middle)<br>Ngo, [REDACTED] |                                 | 9. TELEPHONE NUMBER<br>[REDACTED]@y [REDACTED] |                        |                   |                   |                    |                   |
| 10. HOME ADDRESS<br>[REDACTED]                              |  |                                 | 11. OTHER ADDRESS<br>[REDACTED] 54             |                        |                   |                   |                    |                   |
| 12. RACE<br>Asian   | 13. SEX<br>Male                                  | 14. BIRTHDATE<br>[REDACTED]     | 15. AGE<br>56                                  | 16. APPARENTAGE<br>N/A | 17. HAIR<br>Black | 18. EYES<br>Brown | 19. HEIGHT<br>5-08 | 20. WEIGHT<br>175 |
| 21. OPERATOR'S LICENSE NUMBER<br>[REDACTED]                 |  | 22. CLOTHING DESCRIPTION<br>N/A |  |                        |                   |                   |                    |                   |
| 23. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION<br>Manager for Roberts Liquor |  |                                 |  |                        |                   |                   |                    |                   |



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CODE: L – Licensee; E – Employee; V – Victim; W – Witness; S – Suspect; O – Other

|   |   |                             |   |                       |                   |                  |                    |                   |  |
|---|---|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--|
| 7. CODE<br>S-2                              | 8. NAME (Last, first, middle)<br>Parker, [REDACTED] |                             | 9. TELEPHONE NUMBER<br>[REDACTED] parker37@g [REDACTED] |                       |                   |                  |                    |                   |  |
| 10. HOME ADDRESS<br>[REDACTED]              |   |                             | 11. OTHER ADDRESS<br>N/A                                |                       |                   |                  |                    |                   |  |
| 12. RACE<br>White                           | 13. SEX<br>Male                                     | 14. BIRTHDATE<br>[REDACTED] | 15. AGE<br>21   | 16. APPARENTAGE<br>21 | 17. HAIR<br>Brown | 18. EYES<br>Blue | 19. HEIGHT<br>5-10 | 20. WEIGHT<br>160 |  |
| 21. OPERATOR'S LICENSE NUMBER<br>[REDACTED] |   |                             | 22. CLOTHING DESCRIPTION<br>Blue t-shirt and grey jeans |                       |                   |                  |                    |                   |  |

23. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION  
 Issued a citation #0208015 for 9.04.10 (a) Hermosa Beach Municipal Code: Drinking in Public

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|   |  |                             |   |                       |                   |                   |                    |                   |  |
|---|--|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--|
| 7. CODE<br>S-3                              | 8. NAME (Last, first, middle)<br>[REDACTED] [REDACTED] |                             | 9. TELEPHONE NUMBER<br>[REDACTED] @g [REDACTED]         |                       |                   |                   |                    |                   |  |
| 10. HOME ADDRESS<br>[REDACTED]              |  |                             | 11. OTHER ADDRESS<br>N/A                                |                       |                   |                   |                    |                   |  |
| 12. RACE<br>White                           | 13. SEX<br>Male  | 14. BIRTHDATE<br>[REDACTED] | 15. AGE<br>17   | 16. APPARENTAGE<br>17 | 17. HAIR<br>Brown | 18. EYES<br>Hazel | 19. HEIGHT<br>6-00 | 20. WEIGHT<br>155 |  |
| 21. OPERATOR'S LICENSE NUMBER<br>[REDACTED] |  |                             | 22. CLOTHING DESCRIPTION<br>Blue hoodie and black jeans |                       |                   |                   |                    |                   |  |

23. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION  
 Issued a citation #0208017 for violation of 25662 (a) BPC: Minor in Possession of Alcoholic Beverage

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|   |  |                             |                                   |                        |                    |                   |                    |                   |  |
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| 7. CODE<br>W/O                              | 8. NAME (Last, first, middle)<br>[REDACTED] Lindsey [REDACTED] |                             | 9. TELEPHONE NUMBER<br>[REDACTED] |                        |                    |                   |                    |                   |  |
| 10. HOME ADDRESS<br>[REDACTED]              |  |                             | 11. OTHER ADDRESS<br>N/A          |                        |                    |                   |                    |                   |  |
| 12. RACE<br>White                           | 13. SEX<br>Female  | 14. BIRTHDATE<br>[REDACTED] | 15. AGE<br>54                     | 16. APPARENTAGE<br>N/A | 17. HAIR<br>Auburn | 18. EYES<br>Green | 19. HEIGHT<br>5-05 | 20. WEIGHT<br>120 |  |
| 21. OPERATOR'S LICENSE NUMBER<br>[REDACTED] |  |                             | 22. CLOTHING DESCRIPTION<br>N/A   |                        |                    |                   |                    |                   |  |

23. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION  
 Mother of [REDACTED] [REDACTED]



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|   |   |                                 |                                   |                        |                    |                  |                    |                   |
|---|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 7. CODE<br>W/O                              | 8. NAME (Last, first, middle)<br>Caldwell, [REDACTED] |                                 | 9. TELEPHONE NUMBER<br>[REDACTED] |                        |                    |                  |                    |                   |
| 10. HOME ADDRESS<br>[REDACTED]              |   |                                 | 11. OTHER ADDRESS<br>N/A          |                        |                    |                  |                    |                   |
| 12. RACE<br>White                           | 13. SEX<br>Female                                     | 14. BIRTHDATE<br>[REDACTED]     | 15. AGE<br>50                     | 16. APPARENTAGE<br>N/A | 17. HAIR<br>Blonde | 18. EYES<br>Blue | 19. HEIGHT<br>5-03 | 20. WEIGHT<br>112 |
| 21. OPERATOR'S LICENSE NUMBER<br>[REDACTED] |   | 22. CLOTHING DESCRIPTION<br>N/A |                                   |                        |                    |                  |                    |                   |
| 23. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION<br>[REDACTED] |   |                                 |                                   |                        |                    |                  |                    |                   |

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|  |   |                          |   |                 |          |          |            |            |
|--|---|--------------------------|---|-----------------|----------|----------|------------|------------|
| 7. CODE<br>W/O   | 8. NAME (Last, first, middle)<br>[REDACTED] |                          | 9. TELEPHONE NUMBER<br>(310) 318-0360                         |                 |          |          |            |            |
| 10. HOME ADDRESS<br>[REDACTED]   |   |                          | 11. OTHER ADDRESS<br>540 Pier Avenue, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254 |                 |          |          |            |            |
| 12. RACE   | 13. SEX                                     | 14. BIRTHDATE            | 15. AGE   | 16. APPARENTAGE | 17. HAIR | 18. EYES | 19. HEIGHT | 20. WEIGHT |
|  |   |                          |   |                 |          |          |            |            |
| 21. OPERATOR'S LICENSE NUMBER  |   | 22. CLOTHING DESCRIPTION |   |                 |          |          |            |            |
| 23. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION<br>Hermosa Beach Police Department personnel |   |                          |   |                 |          |          |            |            |

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|   |   |                          |  |                 |          |          |            |            |
|---|---|--------------------------|--|-----------------|----------|----------|------------|------------|
| 7. CODE<br>W/O  | 8. NAME (Last, first, middle)<br>Agents: J. Coia #1202, E. Henn #1212, P. Santos #1214, J. [REDACTED] |                          | 9. TELEPHONE NUMBER<br>(562) 467-8409  |                 |          |          |            |            |
| 10. HOME ADDRESS<br>[REDACTED]  |   |                          | 11. OTHER ADDRESS<br>12750 Center Court Drive, Suite 700, Cerritos, CA 90720 |                 |          |          |            |            |
| 12. RACE  | 13. SEX   | 14. BIRTHDATE            | 15. AGE  | 16. APPARENTAGE | 17. HAIR | 18. EYES | 19. HEIGHT | 20. WEIGHT |
|   |   |                          |  |                 |          |          |            |            |
| 21. OPERATOR'S LICENSE NUMBER   |   | 22. CLOTHING DESCRIPTION |  |                 |          |          |            |            |
| 23. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION<br>Agents, California Alcoholic Beverage Control-Cerritos Enforcement Officer (CEO) |   |                          |  |                 |          |          |            |            |



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|                |   |                                       |
|----------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 7. CODE<br>W/O | 8. NAME (Last, first, middle)<br>Supervising Agent K [REDACTED] | 9. TELEPHONE NUMBER<br>(562) 982-1337 |
|----------------|---|---------------------------------------|

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 10. HOME ADDRESS | 11. OTHER ADDRESS<br>3950 Paramount Blvd., Suite 250, Lakewood, CA<br>90712 |
|------------------|---|

|          |         |               |         |                 |          |          |            |            |
|----------|---------|---------------|---------|-----------------|----------|----------|------------|------------|
| 12. RACE | 13. SEX | 14. BIRTHDATE | 15. AGE | 16. APPARENTAGE | 17. HAIR | 18. EYES | 19. HEIGHT | 20. WEIGHT |
|----------|---------|---------------|---------|-----------------|----------|----------|------------|------------|

|                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 21. OPERATOR'S LICENSE NUMBER | 22. CLOTHING DESCRIPTION |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|

23. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION  
 Supervising Agent and Agent, California Alcoholic Beverage Control- Lakewood District Office

CODE: L – Licensee; E – Employee; V – Victim; W – Witness; S – Suspect; O – Other

|                |   |                                       |
|----------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 7. CODE<br>W/O | 8. NAME (Last, first, middle)<br>A [REDACTED] | 9. TELEPHONE NUMBER<br>(562) 275-4168 |
|----------------|---|---------------------------------------|

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 10. HOME ADDRESS | 11. OTHER ADDRESS<br>3950 Paramount Blvd., Suite 250, Lakewood, CA<br>90712 |
|------------------|---|

|          |         |               |         |                 |          |          |            |            |
|----------|---------|---------------|---------|-----------------|----------|----------|------------|------------|
| 12. RACE | 13. SEX | 14. BIRTHDATE | 15. AGE | 16. APPARENTAGE | 17. HAIR | 18. EYES | 19. HEIGHT | 20. WEIGHT |
|----------|---------|---------------|---------|-----------------|----------|----------|------------|------------|

|                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 21. OPERATOR'S LICENSE NUMBER | 22. CLOTHING DESCRIPTION |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|

23. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION  
 Reporting Agent, California Alcoholic Beverage Control-Lakewood District Office



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## ATTACHMENTS:

1. ABC Investigation Report DR#24-03-30, Dated: 04/25/2024, fourteen (14) pages.
2. ABC-162-A Investigation Report of Petition for Offer in Compromise (POIC), Dated: 06/03/2025, nine (9) pages.
3. ABC-257 Licensed Premises Diagram (Retail), Dated: 03/20/1996, one (1) page.
4. Copy of citation #0208015 issued to Parker, [REDACTED] Dated: 08/08/2025, one (1) page.
5. Copies of citations issued to Castro, [REDACTED] and Marrero Jr. [REDACTED] Dated: 08/08/2025 two (2) pages.
6. ABC-320, Evidence/Property Receipt/Report, Dated: 08/08/2025, one (1) page.
7. **Notice to Produce Records Letter**, Dated: 08/14/2025, one (1) page.
8. ABC-320, Evidence/Property Receipt/Report, Dated: 08/22/2025, one (1) page.



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## BACKGROUND:

### Premises Information and Disciplinary History:

#### Friday, April 5, 2024 Minor Decoy Operation

On Friday, April 5, 2024, personnel from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, Lakewood district office, conducted a Minor Decoy Operation in the city of Hermosa Beach.

The Minor Decoy program is an enforcement program used by law enforcement agencies. It involves using a minor as a decoy, under twenty years of age and under the direct supervision of law enforcement officers, to attempt to purchase an alcoholic beverage at an ABC licensed premises. Persons observed selling alcoholic beverages to the minor decoy are arrested for violation of Section 25658 (a) of the Business and Professions Code: Sell/Furnish Alcoholic Beverages to a Minor.

During this Minor Decoy operation, Roberts Liquor was visited. The premises holds a Type 21 License: **OFF SALE GENERAL** - (Package Store), which authorizes the sale of beer, wine and distilled spirits for consumption off the premises where sold. Minors are allowed on the premises, and it is licensed to Tran, [REDACTED]

The cashier/clerk, Meza Estrada, Jose Ciro, sold alcohol to the minor decoy in violation of 25658 (a) Business and Professions Code: Furnishing/Selling Alcohol to a Minor. Meza Estrada was issued a citation for the above-mentioned violation (see attachment #1 for more information).

Based on the violation, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control filed administrative charges against the license for the violation of 25658 (a) Business and Professions Code: Furnishing/Selling Alcohol to a Minor.

#### Tuesday, June 5, 2025

On Tuesday, June 5, 2025, the licensee Tran, [REDACTED] agreed to pay a fine (POIC) of \$6,000.00 for the violation of 25658 (a) Business and Professions Code: Furnishing/Selling Alcohol to a Minor that took place on Friday, April 5, 2024 (see attachment #2 for more information).

*POIC is an acronym for Petition for Offer in Compromise; a fine paid by a licensee in lieu of serving a license suspension for the above-mentioned accusation.*

The above Accusation and POIC information were taken from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control website under the Glossary section (<https://www.abc.ca.gov/licensing/license-lookup/glossary/>).



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**CIRCUMSTANCES/INVESTIGATIONS:**

**ABC Enforcement/Compliance Operation**

On Friday, August 8, 2025, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control and the Hermosa Beach Police Department joined together to conduct an ABC enforcement/compliance check of some of the premises and surrounding areas in the city of Hermosa Beach.

The goal of this operation was to keep the residents and visitors of Hermosa Beach safe by taking appropriate enforcement action to combat crime. Hermosa Beach is a popular entertainment destination featuring a Downtown Pier Plaza with numerous bars and restaurants that serve alcoholic beverages.

Plainclothes personnel from both Departments conducted foot patrols of Pier Plaza and the surrounding areas. Plainclothes personnel focused on violations of the ABC Act, such as sales of alcohol to a minor, possession of alcohol by a minor, possession of fraudulent identification, drinking in public, service to an over-intoxicated person (OI), or any violations of the law. ABC compliance checks were completed in various premises and locations

**Friday, August 8, 2025**

On Friday, August 8, 2025, at approximately 2210, Hermosa Beach Police Department personnel: Sergeant G. Dove #191, Officers K. Dadigan #237 (Lead), G. Rodriguez #242, and F. Reyes #242, Agent E. Hann #1313 and I (Agent M. Connolly #1191) were on foot patrol in the plaza area of Pier Avenue. We were standing near Roberts Liquor, located at 74 Pier Avenue, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. We were monitoring the area for any violations of the law.

I was standing next to a light pole adjacent to the entrance to Roberts Liquor (see picture below). I was looking directly into the premises. The main entrance doors were open, and the lighting was sufficient, allowing me to see the transactions taking place at the cashier register. The cashier counter runs north and south along the east wall with the clerks/cashiers facing west (see attachment #3).

Behind the cashier counter, I saw two (2) clerks/cashiers working. These clerks/cashiers were later identified through their California Driver Licenses (CDL) as the following:

- [REDACTED] Jan [REDACTED] CDL# [REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED]  
 She will be referred to as Jan [REDACTED] for the remainder of this report.
- [REDACTED] Hung [REDACTED] CDL# [REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED]  
 He will be referred to as Hung for the remainder of this report.



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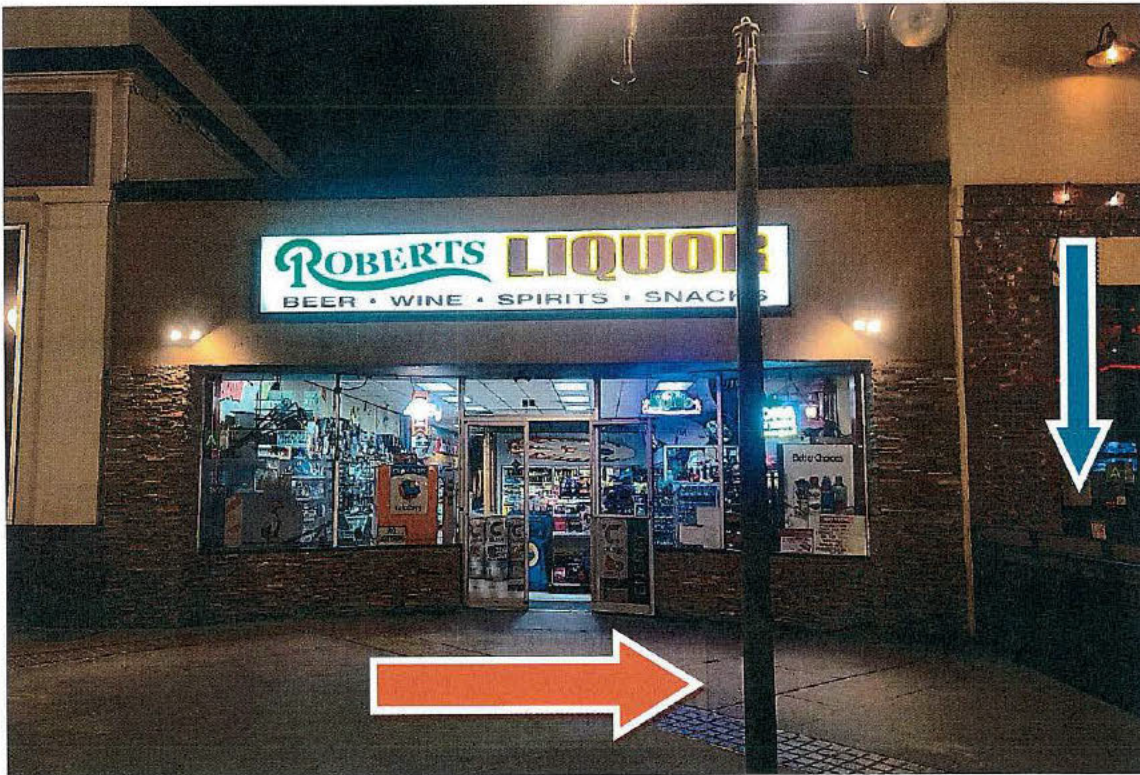


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At approximately 2214 hours, I saw a youthful appearing male, later identified through his CDL # [REDACTED] as Parker, [REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED]-21 years old, purchase a 12 oz. can of Cutwater Mango Margarita from Jan [REDACTED]. Cutwater Mango Margarita is an alcoholic beverage that is 12.5% Alcohol by Volume (ABV).

I watched Parker approach the cashier counter and present his identification to Jan [REDACTED]. Jan [REDACTED] took the identification from Parker and then took approximately three (3) seconds to check it. Jan [REDACTED] handed the identification back to Parker. Parker paid for his can of Cutwater Mango Margarita and later exited the store.

After exiting the premises, Parker walked westbound to the metal fence on the east side of American Junkie located at 68 Pier Avenue, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254 (see picture below). I saw Parker open the can of Cutwater Mango Margarita and take a sip from the can in violation of 9.04.10 (f) Hermosa Beach Municipal Code: Possession of Open Alcohol Container and 9.04.10 (a) Hermosa Beach Municipal Code: Drinking in Public.



A picture of the front of Roberts Liquor store taken from Google Maps with an orange arrow pointing at the light pole where Agent Connolly was standing, and a blue arrow pointing at the area where Parker stood and drank his Cutwater Mango Margarita.



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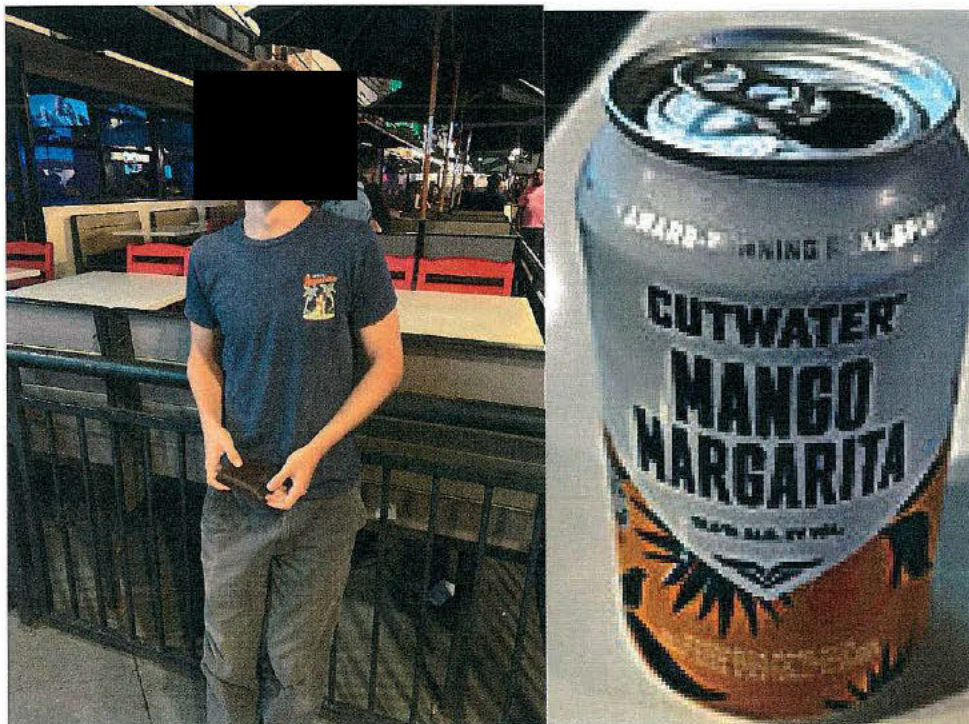


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Based on the above-mentioned violations, his youthful appearance, his purchase and being in possession of alcohol, Sgt. Dove and I conducted an investigatory stop on Parker for possible violations of 25658 (b) Business and Professions Code: Minor Purchasing Alcohol, 25661 (a) Business and Professions Code: Possession of Fraudulent Identification, and 25662(a) Business and Professions Code: Minor in Possession of Alcoholic Beverage as well as the Hermosa Beach Municipal Code violations.

We approached Parker, identified ourselves as Police Officers, both verbally and with our department-issued badges to him. I advised him that drinking in public was an infraction in the city of Hermosa Beach. When asked, Parker stated that he was 21 years old and presented his CDL, which also indicated his age as 21. When questioned further, Parker stated that the clerk looked at his identification for a few seconds.

Based on my observations and his actions, Parker was issued a citation #0208015 for 9.04.10 (a) Hermosa Beach Municipal Code: Drinking in Public (see attachment #4). After signing the citation, Parker was released from the scene.



A picture of Parker, [REDACTED] taken by Agent Connolly on 08/08/2025, and a picture of the open can of Cuter Mango Margarita, taken by Agent Hann on 08/08/2025.

The open can of Cutwater was seized from Parker by me. The can of Cutwater Mango Margarita was photographed and was later disposed of at the scene by Agent Hann.



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Parker's interaction and transaction with Jan [REDACTED] led me to believe that the premises' employees were not doing proper/adequate checks of the identification of persons buying alcoholic beverages at the premises.

Later that evening at approximately 2334 hours, Sergeant Dove, Officers Dadigan, Rodriguez, and Reyes, Agent Seja #1303, and I were standing across the plaza area near Robers Liquor. We were monitoring the area and saw two (2) individuals, later identified as Castro, [REDACTED] and Marrero Jr. [REDACTED]. Both Castro and Marrero were drinking alcoholic beverages and standing near the entrance to Roberts Liquor. I took a photograph of Castro and Marrero standing by the entrance. It should be noted that a subject in a blue hoodie is seen in the photo walking into the premises. This subject would later be identified through his CDL # [REDACTED] as [REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED] 17 years old (see picture below).



A picture of Castro and Marrero standing near the entrance to Robers Liquor, taken by Agent Connolly on 08/08/2025. Also, a green arrow is pointing at [REDACTED] walking into the premises.

Both Castro and Marrero were issued citations for 9.04.10 (f) Hermosa Beach Municipal Code: Possession of Open Alcohol Container by the Hermosa Beach Police Department and later released at the scene (see attachment #5).



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As Hermosa Beach Police Department personnel were issuing their citation. I saw the youthful appearing [REDACTED] walk out of Roberts Liquor carrying a 12-can party pack of Twisted Tea Hard Iced Tea. Twisted Tea is an alcoholic beverage that is 5% Alcohol By Volume (ABV).

Based on his youthful appearance, being in possession of alcohol, and the earlier insufficient ID check by Jan [REDACTED] I decided to conduct an investigatory stop on [REDACTED] for possible violations of 25658 (b) Business and Professions Code: Minor Purchasing Alcohol and 25662 (a) Business and Professions Code: Minor in Possession of Alcoholic Beverage. I advised Agent Seja that I would contact [REDACTED] Agent Seja nodded his head up and down in the affirmative, meaning that he understood and would assist me with the stop of [REDACTED]

I approached [REDACTED] and identified myself as a Police Officer, both verbally and with my Department issued badge to him. I asked [REDACTED] if he was 21 years or older. [REDACTED] did not answer and looked at my dome badge that I was holding at shoulder level with my left hand. When asked again, [REDACTED] responded that he was 17-years old. When asked, [REDACTED] stated that he used fraudulent identification to purchase the alcohol. When questioned further, [REDACTED] said the clerk took about 2-3 seconds to examine his fraudulent identification before selling him the alcohol. [REDACTED] added that the clerk was an Asian male.

Agent Seja identified himself as a Police Officer, both verbally and with his Department issued badge to [REDACTED] Agent Seja and I escorted [REDACTED] off to the side and away from Roberts Liquor. When asked, [REDACTED] retrieved both his true and fraudulent identification from his wallet and handed them both to me.

I advised [REDACTED] that I would issue him a citation for 25662 (a) Business and Professions Code: Minor in Possession of Alcoholic Beverage. I told [REDACTED] that, since he was a juvenile, I needed to advise him of Miranda Rights and that I had to release him to a parent or guardian. I read [REDACTED] his Miranda Rights from my Department issued Miranda card. After reading his Miranda Rights to him, [REDACTED] stated he understood them. [REDACTED] was apologetic and cooperative. I added that I was seizing his fraudulent identification.

[REDACTED] said that he was visiting friends in the area and is from Santa Cruz County. He added that his parents were at their residence in his hometown of Capitola. I had [REDACTED] call his mother using his cellular phone. [REDACTED] reached his mother, who was later verbally identified as [REDACTED] Lindsey [REDACTED] CDL# [REDACTED] She will be referred to as Lindsey for the remainder of this report.

I spoke to Lindsey and explained the situation that her son used a fraudulent identification to purchase alcohol, and that I would be issuing him a citation for that violation. Lindsey stated that she understood and added that [REDACTED] has an aunt who lives in the area, and she would approve of his release to her. The aunt was later identified as Caldwell, [REDACTED] CDL # [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was able to contact Caldwell. Caldwell agreed to come to the scene and to have [REDACTED] released to her. A short time later, Caldwell arrived on scene.



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## Citation Information:

Based on my observations and findings and his statements and admission, [REDACTED] was issued a citation #0208017 for the violation of 25662 (a) BP- Minor in Possession of Alcoholic Beverage. After signing the citation, [REDACTED] was released to Caldwell with his promise to appear.



A picture of [REDACTED] with his hoodie on, taken by Agent Seja, and a picture of [REDACTED] with his hoodie off, taken by Agent Connolly. Both pictures were taken on 08/08/2025.

## Watson Admonishment:

Prior to being released from the scene, I verbally issued a Watson Admonishment to [REDACTED]. The purpose of the Watson Admonishment is to memorialize that [REDACTED] is aware of the dangers that DUI (Driving Under the Influence) poses not only to oneself, but to others.



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██████████ agreed that driving under the influence of any drug, including alcohol, was dangerous and could cause harm or even death to themselves or another person. I explained to him that if he drove a vehicle under the influence of any drug, crashed, or caused the death of another, he could be charged with murder or another serious crime. ██████████ stated that he understood the admonishment.

**Evidence:**



A picture of a fraudulent CDL# ██████████ in the name of ██████████ ██████████ ██████████, taken by Agent Connolly on 08/10/2025

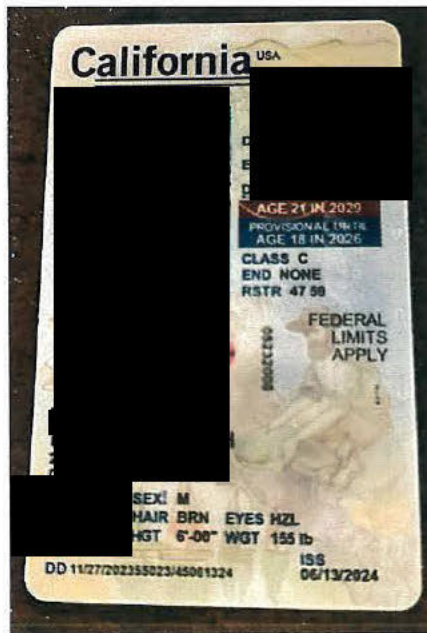


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A picture of [REDACTED] true CDL# [REDACTED] in the name of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED] taken by Agent Connolly on 08/08/2025.



A picture of the 12-pack of Twisted Tea Hard Iced Tea purchased by [REDACTED] taken by Agent Connolly on 08/10/2025.



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## Evidence Review:

During my career, I have seen well-designed fraudulent identifications and poorly designed fraudulent identifications. I have examined fraudulent identifications, which requires some time to evaluate and form an opinion that they are indeed fraudulent. The fraudulent identification recovered from [REDACTED] was easily identifiable as fake. I formed my opinion based on the poor quality of the following:

- The coloring on the identification was not the correct shade/colors (The colors were off)
- The embossed signature on the identification was too dark and bold

## Backtrack Investigation:

Based on my earlier observations of the improper ID check, my interaction with [REDACTED] and his statements, I initiated a backtrack investigation concerning [REDACTED] purchase of alcohol at Roberts Liquor. I wanted to investigate whether [REDACTED] was asked to present identification when he made the purchase. If so, did he provide his true or fraudulent identification, and was there a proper/adequate identification check by the clerk/cashier?

I advised Hermosa Beach Police personnel that I was starting a backtrack investigation and that I needed to close Robert Liquor to commence it. Sgt. Dove advised that his team would assist with dealing with any customers, closing, and securing the premises.

Moments later, Sergeant Dove, Officers Dadigan, Rodriguez, and Reyes, Agent Seja #1303, and I entered the premises. Prior to entering, I started an audio recording using my Department issued iPhone.

I approached Jan [REDACTED] and Hung, and I identified myself as a police officer with the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, both verbally and with my Department issued badge to them. I explained to them that I needed to temporarily close the store and see their identification. Both Jan [REDACTED] and Hung were cooperative. When asked, Hung answered that he had been working at the premises for "a few months." I told them that Hung sold Twisted Tea Hard Iced Tea to a minor.

I spoke to Hung, who told me the following: a person needs to be 21 years old to purchase alcohol in California. He "cards" (checks the identification) of everyone. It takes him approximately 10 seconds to check the identification of a person buying alcohol. He added that "2004, the day before 2004." He only looks at the birth date on the identification. When asked, if he looked at anything else on the identification, Hung answered, "no." At this time, Jan [REDACTED] interjected that they check the expiration date of the identification too. Hung then stated that he looks at the birth date and expiration date. He reaffirmed that he takes approximately 10 seconds to check an identification card. When asked, Hung showed me where the video surveillance Digital video recorder (DVR) was located, which was behind the cashier counter. Hung did not have the password for the DVR. Hung stated that he has worked at other liquor stores in the past. Hung added that he has never been issued a citation for selling alcohol to a minor.



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When asked, Jan [REDACTED] said she did not have access to the DVR. Jan [REDACTED] called the manager, later identified through CDL# [REDACTED] as Ngo, [REDACTED] Jan [REDACTED] handed me the phone, and I spoke with Ngo.

Ngo told the following: the premises retains the video footage for two weeks. I told him that I need to view video footage from earlier tonight. Ngo declined to give me the password and then stated that he needed to speak with his attorney. I explained to him that, as a licensee in California, the premises' records were open to view, which included video footage. I advised him of the penalties for not complying with 25616 Business and Professions Code: Violations of Regulations Relating to Books, Records, and Reports. I reminded him of the premises' prior discipline with the Department. I added that I would leave a **NOTICE TO PRODUCE RECORDS** letter for the video footage. Ngo stated that he would come down to the premises in about 15 minutes, and we could view the footage together.

When asked, Jan [REDACTED] provided me with a copy of the receipt of [REDACTED] purchase of Twisted Tea Hard Iced Tea (see picture below).



A picture of the receipt showing [REDACTED] purchase of Twisted Tea Hard Iced Tea, dated 08/08/2025, 11:35:36 PM, taken by Agent Connolly, 08/10/2025.



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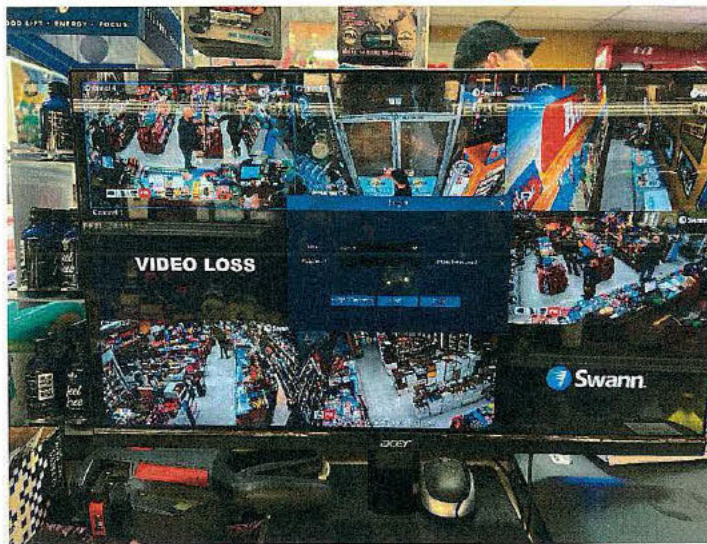
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A few minutes later, Sergeant Zuber #206 from the Hermosa Beach Police Department arrived on scene to assist.

A little while later, Ngo arrived at the premises. We met and introduced ourselves to each other. When asked, Ngo agreed to log in to the video surveillance so we could both view it. Ngo stated that the premises has seven (7) cameras. I asked him to access Camera 4, which is a downward westward view of the cashier counter. This camera shows both registers. It should be noted and can be seen in the video footage that Jan [REDACTED] manned the cash register on the southern end, while Hung manned the one on the northern end. Ngo was able to pull the footage showing [REDACTED] transaction and interaction with Hung.



A picture of the monitor showing the camera views for Roberts Liquor, taken by Agent Connolly on 08/08/2025. The top left camera shows the view for camera 4.

As we watched the video footage, I told Ngo that [REDACTED] was 17 years old. I pointed out [REDACTED] in the footage to Ngo.

In the footage, [REDACTED] walks up to Hung's cash register with an unidentified female. Hung is not dealing with other customers. Johnson places the pack of Twisted Tea Hard Iced onto the cashier's counter. Hung scans the pack of Twisted Tea Hard Iced and asks [REDACTED] for his identification. [REDACTED] retrieves his fraudulent identification from his wallet and hands it to Hung. Hung takes the identification from [REDACTED] and looks at it for less than three (3) seconds and hands it back to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] pays for the items using a Visa card on his cellular phone. After paying for the item, [REDACTED] grabs the pack of Twisted Tea Hard Iced and exits the premises. The entire transaction from start to finish lasts less than 25 seconds. I was able to video the transaction using my Department issued iPhone (see video snip below).



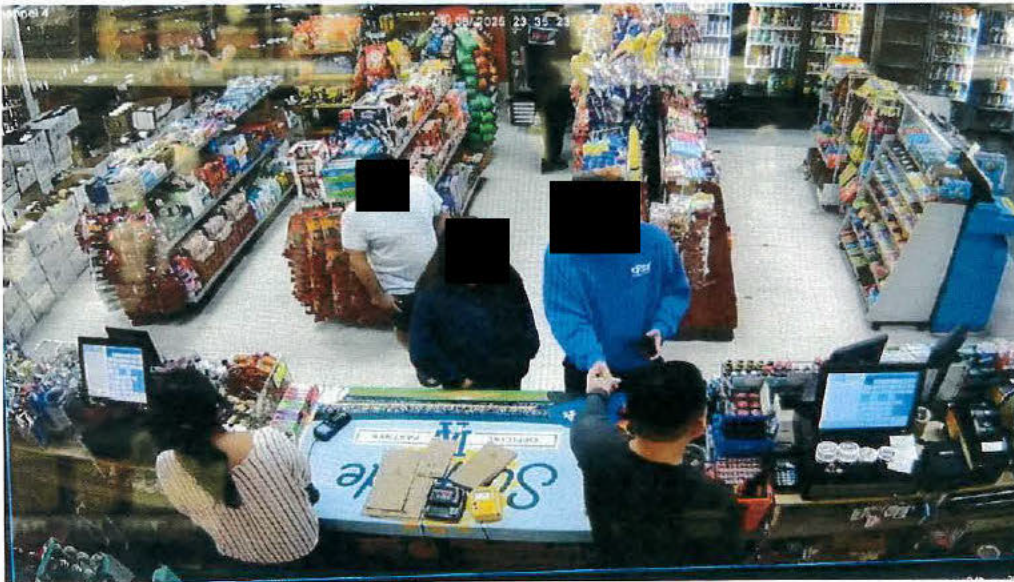
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22:35:21 hours, Hung grabs [redacted] identification and begins examining it.



22:35:23 hours, Hung hands [redacted] back his identification and looks away indicating that his examination was completed.

All the above times were taken from the timestamp on the video footage.



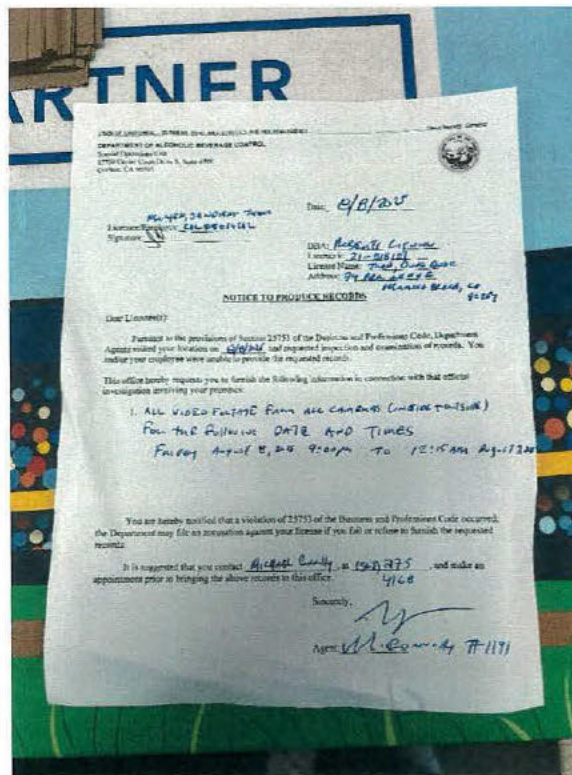
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I told Ngo that Hung took approximately 2-3 seconds to check [REDACTED] identification. Ngo said that when he examines an identification and feels it, he can take in the birth date, expiration date, and the person's photo in 2-3 seconds. I told Ngo that 2-3 seconds is not a sufficient amount of time to examine an identification. I said there is no way that it can be done in that amount of time. I informed Ngo that [REDACTED] had used a poorly made, fraudulent identification, and I showed it to Ngo.

Prior to leaving, I hand-delivered a **NOTICE TO PRODUCE RECORDS** letter for the video footage to Ngo (see picture below). Ngo stated that he would comply with the **NOTICE TO PRODUCE RECORDS** letter. We exchanged contact information (phone numbers and email addresses). I told Ngo that I wanted to come down later in the week to meet with him again and to download the video footage from his DVR system. Ngo said to call him, and we would set up a time to meet. The conversation ended.



A picture of the **NOTICE TO PRODUCE RECORDS** letter for Roberts Liquor, taken by Agent Connolly on 08/09/2025.

On Saturday, August 9, 2025, at approximately 0118 hours, all personnel exited the premises with no other violations observed. The audio recording lasted approximately 38 minutes and 58 seconds, and the three (3) video recordings were later downloaded and booked into evidence (see attachment #8).



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## Evidence:

The 12-pack of Twisted Tea Hard Iced Tea, fraudulent identification, and the receipt were transported to the ABC Lakewood District Office. All items seized were logged and booked under Department Report #25-03-047 and secured in the Evidence Room of the Lakewood District Office by me (see attachment #6).

## Tuesday, August 12, 2025

On Tuesday, August 12, 2025, I spoke with Ngo. We agreed to meet at the premises on Wednesday, August 14, 2025, at 0800 hours, to view and download the video footage.

## NOTICE TO PRODUCE RECORDS:

To further my investigation, I composed a NOTICE TO PRODUCE RECORDS letter for Roberts Liquor to be hand-delivered to Ngo on August 14, 2025.

The NOTICE TO PRODUCE RECORDS letter requested the following:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 25753 of the Business and Professions Code, this office hereby requests you to furnish the following information in connection with an official investigation involving your premises:

1. A complete list of all employees/volunteers/agents working at the premises for the following dates and times:
  - Friday, August 8, 2025, from 9:00 pm to Saturday, August 9, 2025, 2:00 am
2. The information requested in item #1 must include the following information: complete full names, identification card numbers such as a driver license number and/or any form of government issued identification(s), date of birth (DOB), job title, and duties, hire date, and start date.
3. Copies of all video surveillance from all cameras (inside and outside the premises), whether via analog VHS format, digital database, cloud storage (remote storage of video recordings), or any recording system(s) or device(s) for the premises for the following dates and times:
  - Friday, August 8, 2025, from 9:00 pm to Saturday, August 9, 2025, 2:00 am

You are hereby notified that if you fail or refuse to furnish all the information required herein within five (5) days from the date of this letter, the Department will have no choice but to file an accusation against your license. If the records requested do not exist, please respond in writing that the records do not exist and provide an explanation (see attachment #7).



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**Thursday, August 14, 2025**

On Thursday, August 14, 2025, at approximately 0814 hours, I entered Roberts Liquor and met with Ngo. Prior to entering, I started an audio recording using my Department issued iPhone.

We walked behind the cashier counter to the DVR and monitor. I handed Ngo the **NOTICE TO PRODUCE RECORDS** letter.

We watched the video of the purchase of alcohol by Parker. When asked, Ngo agreed that Parker looked young, and he would have identified him if he bought alcohol. Ngo added that the premises has been licensed since 1996, and last year's Minor Decoy violation was their first violation with the Department. Ngo asked about the ramifications of this potential violation. I explained that the premises could get a fine, suspension, or a letter of warning (LOW). I added that the premises has a prior disciplinary history with the Department.

We watched the transaction between Parker and Jan [REDACTED] Jan [REDACTED] took approximately 2-3 seconds to check Parker's identification (see video snip below). I explained that this was an insufficient check by Jan [REDACTED] I added that Parker was later cited for drinking in public adjacent to the front entrance. I told Ngo that he cannot allow his patrons to consume alcoholic beverages near the entrance of his premises. I added that it was his responsibility to police the area.





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While watching the video footage, I saw Castro and Marrero inside the premises. I saw one of them drinking their alcoholic beverages inside the premises and directly in front of the cashier counter in violation of 25612.5 (c)(3)- Business & Professions Code: Consumption of Alcohol on the Premises of an Off-Sale Establishment. Jan [REDACTED] tells them to stop and to take it outside (see video snip below). While standing by the entrance to the premises, Castro and Marrero were later cited by Hermosa Beach Police personnel.





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Ngo said that this was a “slap in the face, eye-opening, wake the fuck up experience.” Ngo asked for leniency. I told him that if he or his employee did not feel comfortable with any transaction, they could refuse the sale. They have to take more time checking IDs, because there are a lot of minors that frequent the area. I explained to him the importance of verifying the identification of anyone purchasing alcohol at their premises. I added that I am trained to determine if an identification is genuine or fraudulent. I told him that I would need more than a few seconds to verify the legitimacy of any identification. I added that if he had any questions or concerns, he should reach out to me. I said that my contact information was in the NOTICE TO PRODUCE RECORDS letter. The conversation ended a few minutes later.

At approximately 0848 hours, I exited the premises.

The first audio recording lasted approximately 9 minutes and 19 seconds, the second audio recording lasted approximately 2 minutes and 42 seconds, and the third audio recording lasted approximately 28 minutes and 53 seconds. The audio recordings and the three (3) video recordings were downloaded and later booked into evidence (see attachment #8).

### Audio Recordings:

The audio recordings, video recordings, pictures, and video snips from Roberts Liquor Plus were transferred onto an Enfrain USB external thumb drive. The Enfrain USB external thumb drive was logged and booked under Department Report #25-03-047 and secured in the Evidence Room of the Lakewood District Office by me (see attachment #8).

### Training and Experience:

I know from my training and experience, especially with checking and verifying identification, that it is nearly impossible for someone to verify the authenticity of an identification card in less than five (5) seconds this includes processing the following information: expiration date, date of birth of the person, descriptors, and to verify if the picture on the identification matches the person presenting it.

### ADMINISTRATIVE FILING:

I recommend an administrative filing against the licensee, Tran, [REDACTED] for violating 25658 (a) Business and Professions Code: Sales of Alcohol Beverage to a Minor. I based administrative filling on the following:

- The premises paid a POIC (fine) for a violation of 25658 (a) Business and Professions Code: Sales of Alcohol Beverage to a Minor (04/05/2024)
- The poor quality of the fraudulent identification that was presented to Hung
- Hung’s inadequate and short check of [REDACTED] identification
- The video evidence of Hung’s inadequate and short checks



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| 1. REPORT NUMBER<br>25-03-047 | 2. ASSIGNMENT NUMBER<br>LB-10153996 | 3 PAGE<br>25 of 25 |
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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

It is to be noted that during this investigation, none of the suspects or any employees were patted down, searched, or handcuffed by Agents or by Hermosa Beach Police personnel.