



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**RAVE WORKS WITH LIQUOR LICENSEES TO
REDUCE OVER-SERVING, RELATED TRAFFIC CRASHES AND DWIs**
Pilot Program Focuses on Education, Coincides with Law Enforcement Periods

ST. PAUL — The Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division (AGED) recently conducted RAVE (Retail Alcohol Vendor Enforcement), a pilot program focusing on educating liquor licensees to prevent service to intoxicated persons in an effort to reduce alcohol-related traffic crashes and DWI arrests.

Begun in September 2008, RAVE has been coordinated with the State Patrol, and county and local law enforcement agencies participating in NightCAP and Safe & Sober efforts in Anoka, Ramsey and Wright counties. The counties are among the state’s 13 deadliest for impaired driving and will see additional DWI patrols in 2009.

Coinciding with concentrated impaired driving enforcement, AGED agents visited nearly 100 licensed liquor establishments to introduce RAVE. The agents notify owners of local enforcement efforts, review statutes on sales to intoxicated persons, and offer server training assistance. AGED agents also provided educational material, including public service posters and material detailing liquor laws.

AGED agents respond to reports of possible over-service based on DWI arrests where the driver had an alcohol concentration of 0.16 or more (twice the legal limit), or in cases in which an arrested person indicated the establishment where they last consumed alcohol. Agents subsequently provide licensees with a second copy of statutes on sales to intoxicated persons and again offer server training. Since RAVE’s inception, AGED has initiated civil penalty proceedings against three licensees.

Citizens can call the AGED tip-line at 866-345-1204 to anonymously report suspected alcohol violations, including underage sale, after-hour sales, and selling without a license. The tip-line should not be used to report impaired driving, or problem-drinking or gambling.

The RAVE, NightCAP and Safe & Sober programs share the common goals of reducing the number of impaired drivers originating from licensed liquor establishments and reducing the average alcohol concentration levels of those arrested for DWI who report drinking in licensed establishments.

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- Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement
- Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
- Driver and Vehicle Services
- Emergency Communication Networks
- Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- Minnesota State Patrol
- Office of Communications
- Office of Justice Programs
- Office of Traffic Safety
- State Fire Marshal