



# NEWS RELEASE

Supervisor Michael J. Rubio, Fifth District  
1115 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 505  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
(661) 868-3690                      (661) 868-3645 FAX

Immediate Release  
August 29, 2006

Contact: Sergio C. Reyes  
(661) 378-1456

## **Tobacco Sales to Minors Decrease Significantly in Lamont**

Supervisor Rubio is proud to announce that a joint undercover operation between the Kern County Sheriff's Department and Bakersfield Police Department Joint Vice Task Force in the Lamont area proved successful. The Joint Vice Task Force sought violations of Penal Code section 308(a)—sales of tobacco products to minors. This sting operation marks a complete turnaround from a similar investigation last fall.

In collaboration with Supervisor Rubio's office and the Kern County Department of Public Health Tobacco Education Program, local law enforcement agencies used six minor decoys to visit a total of twenty-six establishments in the Lamont area on Saturday, August 26, 2006. In total, only two establishments sold cigarettes to the minor decoys. This represents a 92.3% compliance rate compared to an 11.1% compliance rate when a similar operation in Lamont occurred last year on Saturday, October 22, 2005.

The two businesses that sold cigarettes to minors were issued a citation to appear in Lamont Superior Court for violation of Penal Code 308(a). All businesses were also handed an educational warning flyer that had been prepared by the Kern County Department of Public Health Tobacco Education Program.

"It is apparent that educational efforts by various County departments, including the Department of Public Health, have had a significant impact on the sale of tobacco to minors in Lamont." said Supervisor Rubio. "I am delighted to see that education really is making a true impact in the desire of businesses to not sell tobacco products to minors. By working together, the business and government sectors can truly make a difference in the day-to-day health and well-being of young adults in Kern County."