

MEDIA RELEASE



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27 Omaha Area Businesses Sold Alcohol to Minors *Variedades Salvadorenas sold for the second time in a year*

OMAHA, NEB -- As winter break approaches, Omaha area law enforcement agencies were out this past weekend to make sure that retailers are refusing the sale of alcohol to minors going into the holiday season.

"With Christmas and New Year's on the horizon, we want to make sure that businesses are instructing their employees to check IDs and refuse alcohol sales to any person presenting a vertical or expired ID," said Sgt. Jeremy Leifeld with the Ralston Police Department. "Businesses can refuse the sale of alcohol at any time and we'd urge them to be extra cautious when it comes to youth, especially as schools and colleges prepare to go on winter break."

Overall, 27 (9%) out of 304 businesses checked in Douglas and Sarpy counties over the last two months were cited for selling alcohol to minors. A summary sheet of the enforcement results and a full list of businesses checked are available by [clicking here](#).

Two of the businesses cited are facing enhanced penalties due to prior sales to minors within the last four years -- the time frame used by the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission (LCC) to assess penalties. The Chili's Grill & Bar in La Vista was cited for its second sale to minor in the last two years and Variedades Salvadorenas in Omaha was cited for its second violation within one year. Both businesses face mandatory days of closure (no alcohol sales allowed) and days of suspension, the latter which can be paid off as a fine at \$100 per day according to the [LCC's penalty guidelines](#):

- **Chili's Grill & Bar, 8373 Barmettler Dr, La Vista (3/19)** -- facing up to 2 days of mandatory closure and 20 days of suspension;
- **Variedades Salvadorenas, 3702 Q St, Omaha (12/21)** -- facing up to 2 days of mandatory closure and 50 days of suspension.

The other 25 businesses are facing their first sale to a minor violation within the last four years. If found guilty by the LCC, these businesses could be facing 15-25 days of suspension that they could choose to pay off as a fine at \$50 per day in lieu of suspension. The five businesses listed below had previous sales to minor violations, but they fell outside of the four-year window that the LCC uses for determining progressive penalties:

- **Godfather's Pizza, 806 Village Sq, Gretna (8/08; 1/16);**
- **Gretna 66, 104 Glenmore Dr, Gretna (2/18);**

- **Kelcey's of Waterloo, 2529 River Road Dr, Waterloo (4/17);**
- **Kwik Shop 672, 5208 S 72nd St, Ralston (5/08; 12/11);**
- **Simply Delicious Restaurant, 215 N Spruce St, Valley (1/16);**
- **Virtuoso Pizzeria, 6056 Maple St, Omaha (12/18);**
- **Walmart 2847, 10504 S 15th St, Bellevue (12/11).**

48 officers from the Bellevue, La Vista, Omaha, Papillion, and Ralston Police Departments; the Douglas and Sarpy County Sheriff's Offices; and the Nebraska State Patrol participated in the enhanced underage drinking enforcement effort.

To report 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 as well as the Strategic Prevention Framework - Partnerships for Success and the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block grants from SAMHSA through the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare. NDOT-HSO 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.

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