



## VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***

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### **DOJ Grant Helps VPD Officers Crack Down on Tobacco Sales to Minors.**

On Tuesday, May 28, 2024, Visalia Police Department Officers conducted tobacco compliance inspections at several businesses in the City of Visalia. The purpose of the inspections was to ensure businesses were complying with California State Laws regarding the sale of tobacco and tobacco products. Four warnings were given for having improper signage and four warnings were given for having banned flavored tobacco products for sale.

Today, Visalia Police Department Officers conducted a tobacco minor decoy operation to check if businesses in the City of Visalia sold tobacco products to minors. Under the supervision of officers, the minor decoys were told to go into stores and try to buy tobacco products. One business was cited for selling tobacco to a minor. One additional business was cited for having banned flavored tobacco products for sale.

The Visalia Police Department will be holding a series of tobacco decoy and compliance inspections throughout the year to ensure businesses are complying with state law. A retailer who is found guilty can be charged for a misdemeanor or subject to a fine up to \$1,000.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Department of Justice.

