MEDIA RELEASE

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Contact: Sergeant Amber Christian

Ames Police Partners with Iowa Department of Revenue on Underage Alcohol Compliance Checks

The Ames Police Department is partnering with the Iowa Department of Revenue (IDR) to conduct underage alcohol compliance checks at businesses licensed to sell alcohol in Ames.

The checks are part of the Iowa Underage Alcohol Enforcement Program, a partnership between IDR and local law enforcement to reduce underage alcohol sales. During a compliance check, a person under 21, supervised by officers, attempts to buy alcohol. Employees who sell alcohol to the underage buyer will be cited.

Preventing underage alcohol sales reduces the risk of underage drinking and its consequences, including impaired driving, crashes and injuries.

Under Iowa law, selling alcohol to a person under 21 carries a scheduled fine of $645 for an employee and $1,925 for a licensee or permittee (Iowa Code section 123.49(2)(h)). The licensed business may also face a civil penalty, license suspension or revocation.

IDR offers training through the Iowa Program for Alcohol Compliance Training (I-PACT). The free online course covers Iowa alcohol laws, checking identification, recognizing fake IDs and refusing a sale. If an employee with a valid I-PACT certificate sells alcohol to someone 18 to 20 years old, the business may avoid a civil penalty. A business can use this protection once every four years at the same location.

Businesses can find I-PACT training on the Iowa Department of Revenue website.

Questions regarding this press release may be directed to Sergeant Amber Christian, Ames Police Department, at (515) 239-5134 or (515) 239-5133.

A criminal charge is merely an accusation, and defendant(s) are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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