



## VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Jason Salazar, Chief of Police*

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

**February 6, 2025**

### **DOJ Grant Supports VPD Effort to Combat Tobacco Sales to Minors**

On Wednesday, February 5, 2025, officers from the Visalia Police Department conducted tobacco compliance checks at several businesses across the city. The goal was to ensure businesses were following California state laws regarding the sale of tobacco products and to educate them about recent updates to the state's flavored tobacco ban. One business received a warning for selling banned flavored tobacco products.

Throughout the year, the Visalia Police Department will continue conducting tobacco decoy and compliance inspections to ensure businesses adhere to state regulations. Retailers caught selling tobacco products to minors may face misdemeanor charges or fines up to \$1,000. Selling flavored tobacco products can result in civil penalties ranging from \$1,000 to \$20,000 per violation.

This program is made possible by a grant from the California Department of Justice.

