



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 Thursday, May 15, 2025, 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, as well as educate businesses on the recent changes to the California flavored tobacco ban. All businesses inspected were found to be in compliance.

As part of an ongoing effort to combat underage smoking and vaping, 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 of selling tobacco products to a minor can be charged for a misdemeanor or subject to a fine up to \$1,000. Possession of flavored tobacco products for sale can result in civil penalties ranging from \$1,000 to \$20,000 per violation.

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

