



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 June 12, 2025, Visalia Police Department officers conducted a tobacco minor decoy operation to ensure local businesses were not selling tobacco products to underage individuals. Under officer supervision, minor decoys visited various establishments throughout the city and attempted to purchase tobacco products. We're proud to report that all businesses were in compliance with the law.

The Visalia Police Department, in partnership with the California Department of Justice, remains committed to protecting youth from the dangers of tobacco and nicotine addiction. Smoking continues to be the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, claiming over 480,000 lives each year. Alarming, nearly 90% of daily smokers begin before the age of 18.

In an effort to combat underage smoking, 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 State Department of Justice.

