



# Press Release

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## **MULTI-AGENCY COLLABORATION NETS RESULTS FOR CHINO HILLS COMMUNITY**

Chino Hills, CA – The City of Chino Hills announced that collaboration between the City of Chino Hills (City), the Chino Hills Police Department (CHPD), and the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) has resulted in the permanent end of liquor sales at Shamrock's Grille & Pub located at 4020 Chino Hills Parkway. The ABC will suspend Shamrock's liquor license as of November 8, 2018.

Residents in the neighborhood behind Shamrock's attended City Council meetings in the fall of 2017 (September 12, 26 and November 28) and expressed concern that the City of Chino Hills had not resolved their complaints about loud music, excessive noise, and patrons parking and behaving inappropriately on Cherry Drive and in the establishment's parking lot.

According to City Manager Rad Bartlam, Chino Hills Code Enforcement and the Chino Hills Police Department were engaged in an active investigation prior to the public comments made in the fall of 2017. Code Enforcement reviewed compliance with the Chino Hills Municipal Code for noise levels, zoning, and more. CHPD reviewed calls for service and criminal activity, increased patrols, and conducted surveillance. CHPD contacted the ABC and shared the results of their investigation that revealed concerns about Shamrock's possible noncompliance with alcoholic beverage laws. ABC launched their own investigation.

"The City does not comment on active investigations in order to preserve the integrity of the investigation," said Mayor Peter Rogers. "The City Council and I are extremely happy that we can now share information about the work done on behalf of our residents."

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According to City Attorney Mark Hensley, the City was preparing to file an action in Superior Court, based on the findings of Code Enforcement and the Chino Hills Police Department, to enforce the Chino Hills Municipal Code and abate the public nuisance created by Shamrock's operation. The District Attorney has filed criminal complaints against two Shamrock's former employees who are alleged to have sold narcotics to undercover ABC officers at the restaurant in January of 2018.

Records show that CHPD responded to more than 200 calls for service since January 1, 2017, which exceeds calls for service from similar establishments in the area. Multiple alleged felony arrests (assault with a deadly weapon, illegal drug sales, battery resulting in serious bodily injury) and misdemeanors (resisting arrest, driving under the influence, public intoxication, persons under the influence of a controlled substance, and others) were alleged to have originated at Shamrock's.

The effective collaboration of the agencies led the ABC to schedule a joint review of the case against Shamrock's with Shamrock's owner and representatives from the City Manager's Office, the City Attorney's Office, and the Chino Hills Police Department. Shamrock's owner signed a settlement agreement that suspends his liquor license for 180 days and allows him to sell the license, but not for use at the Shamrock's location. The Director of the ABC may revoke the license if the conditions are not met. The liquor license suspension starts on Thursday, November 8.

"We extend our thanks to the ABC for joining our efforts, and recommending a settlement that saved both the City and the ABC from expensive litigation and permanently removes the possibility of these types of problems at that location forever," said Mayor Rogers.

"Our partnership with the Chino Hills City Attorney and Police Department was an effective way to address a problem location that was a drain on public resources," said John P. Newton, Attorney for the ABC. "We hope to use this new model in the future on a statewide basis."

According to Newton, ABC agents will post suspension notices and take possession of the alcohol license certificate on November 8.

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