

SHORT TAKES

## Police say alcohol arrests among underaged off 30%

2:00 a.m. August 21, 2009

**SAN DIEGO:** Underage-drinking citations have fallen by nearly 30 percent in San Diego since a beach alcohol ban went into effect last year, according to police data released yesterday.

Officials said that while the arrests stayed generally the same in most neighborhoods, areas near beaches saw a sharp decline.

Underage-drinking violations dropped the most along Pacific Beach, with 79 percent less citations last year compared with the three previous years, according to the North City Prevention Coalition, a nonprofit group that analyzed the data. In Mission Beach and Mission Bay Park, arrests fell by 45 percent.

A November 2007 ballot measure made the alcohol ban permanent. It went into effect in January 2008.

Police wrote about 1,400 citations each year for minors in possession of alcohol before the ban, according to the data. But in 2008, arrests fell to 991 citywide.

— *K.D.*

Union-Tribune

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