

# North Coastal Prevention Coalition

Serving the Communities of Carlsbad, Oceanside and Vista

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*Vista Hill*

*Vista Unified School District*

*Vista Sheriff's Department*

*...and various community members*

December 9, 2005

Carlsbad Police Department  
2560 Orion Way  
Carlsbad, CA 92008

**RE: Dollar Tree Stores alcohol license application**

To Whom It May Concern:

We recently learned that the Dollar Tree, located at 1838 Marron Rd. in Carlsbad, has applied to transfer an alcohol license to sell beer and wine at this location. While this area is not currently over-concentrated with alcohol licenses, it is in a high crime area according to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. Because the crime rate is 161% higher than the City average, the Carlsbad Police Department has the authority to deny the license transfer because "public convenience and necessity" is not warranted.

Increased alcohol availability in communities is associated with an increase in alcohol related problems, including youth access to alcohol, public drunkenness, drinking and driving, and vandalism. Cities bear the responsibility and costs of enforcing many alcohol laws and have to deal with the negative consequences that result when alcohol is sold, served, and consumed irresponsibly.

The North Coastal Prevention Coalition recently embarked on a strategic planning process and learned the following:

- Over 40% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders in Carlsbad report drinking alcohol in the past month.
- The number of alcohol-involved traffic collisions has risen 59% in Carlsbad since 2000 (with a total of 140 in 2004).
- 79% of all ABC alcohol-violations have been for sales to minors in the Tri-City area.

Stores that sell alcohol are a common source of alcohol for underage youth. Youth are also very price-sensitive, and beer and wine for \$1 is a concern to us. Even if retailers are responsible in checking ID's and not selling to minors, an additional licensed business provides another opportunity where minors can get alcohol by asking adults to purchase it for them, or by stealing it. Given the proximity to the Westfield Shopping Center, which is a popular teen hang-out throughout North County, an alcohol license at the Dollar Tree could contribute to the underage drinking problem.

***In the interest of the residents and youth of Carlsbad, we request that you deny the request by Dollar Tree to sell beer and wine. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.***

Sincerely,

Nicole Pappas  
President