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Dear Chief:

As a courtesy to you and your department, I would like to make you aware that once again it's time for Macomb County Office of Substance Abuse to coordinate the implementation of tobacco compliance checks in various locations throughout Macomb County. As you may recall, these checks will occur during the month of July and are a part of a federal mandate. Enclosed please find a letter from Colonel Peter C. Munoz, Director of the Michigan State Police stating his acknowledgment and approval for such checks.

These compliance checks, as in years past, will use teens, ages 15-17 who will be attempting to purchase cigarettes in randomly selected retailers and vending machine outlets. All teens will be accompanied by an adult chaperone. They will NOT actually purchase tobacco products. If a store clerk agrees to sell to one of the teens, they have been instructed to indicate that they do not have enough money and to leave the outlet. This approach will prevent them from violating the Youth Tobacco Act, which states that:

"The purchase of Tobacco Products by a minor under 18 years of age and the provision of Tobacco Products to a minor are prohibited by law. A minor unlawfully purchasing or using Tobacco Products is subject to criminal penalties."

This effort is being done in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Community Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse & Addiction Services. Michigan is under a federal mandate, the Synar amendment, which requires each state to demonstrate that their Youth Tobacco Laws are being enforced to reduce access of tobacco products to minors.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dawn Radzioch, Prevention Coordinator, Nancy Jenuwine, Assistant Prevention Coordinator or me, at (586) 469-5278. thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Randy O'Brien
Director