

June, 2006

Dear Retailer or Law Enforcement Personnel,

My name is _____. I am a youth volunteer working with Youth Leadership Institute and a member of The Stay Safe Youth Coalition (SSYC), a program of Asian-American Recovery Services (AARS). We are conducting a survey of local tobacco retailers to document stores' willingness to sell tobacco products to minors. It is against the law to sell tobacco to persons under the age of 18.

In order to document the current illegal sales rate, youth will be attempting to purchase packs of cigarettes at stores in the Pacifica. The youth are using a survey method that requires actual PURCHASE of the tobacco.

The Pacifica Police Department has been notified of this survey activity and is supportive of our efforts. They understand that adults accompany youth at all times during the survey. Compiled results will be shared with the media, the community and local elected officials. Information about individual stores will not be shared or made public.

The California Department of Health Services, the San Mateo Tobacco Education Coalition, The Youth Leadership and AARS: SSYC are committed to reducing tobacco use among all Californians, especially preventing youth from starting to smoke. While there are many reasons that youth do start smoking, a significant contributor is the easy access to tobacco offered by stores. It is the intention of AARS: SSYC to inform the public about youth access to tobacco at retail outlets in a statewide effort to facilitate enforcement of existing tobacco sales laws and enactment of local policies restricting youth access to tobacco. This survey is an important step in achieving these goals.

Sincerely,

SSYC member