CITY OF BRISBANE
POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

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The Brisbane Police Department received information of illegal gambling associated with an "Internet Café" that was located inside the Historic 23 Club at 23 Visitation Ave. in Brisbane.

The Internet Café was posing as a legitimate internet access point and offered access to a "Sweepstakes" that operated and paid out like traditional video slot machines.

This type of illegal gambling has been gaining popularity recently in the Sacramento area. Sacramento Police and the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office have been successful in investigating and prosecuting this discrete form of gambling.

Due to complexity and difficulty in gathering evidence in these types of cases, the Brisbane Police Department contacted Pacifica Police Sgt. Dan Steidle, who currently administers the <21 COAST Task Force, which is comprised of the Brisbane, Broadmoor, Burlingame, Colma, Daly City, Pacifica, San Bruno, San Mateo County Sheriff's Office and South San Francisco police departments. <21 COAST stands for: Under 21 Consumption of Alcohol Suppression Team and is funded by a grant from the Department of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC), a Department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. The grant is aimed at curbing underage drinking as well as other illegal activity associated with establishments that serve alcohol.

In a joint operation with the <21 COAST Task Force, ABC and the Sacramento Police Department, we were able to conduct several undercover operations to establish the presence of the illegal gambling and gather evidence to precede with criminal prosecution.

On 12/18/2012, a search warrant was served at the 23 Club. 16 computers were seized that will be analyzed by the Silicon Valley Regional Computer Forensic Laboratory. Following the results of the analysis, charges will be filed against the individuals who are responsible for running the illegal gambling operation. ABC will also be seeking administrative action against the bar owner for allowing the illegal activity to take place inside the establishment.

This case is a perfect example of effective shared services. The pulling together of resources and expertise allow small to mid-size police departments to operate the same as much larger agencies, while still preserving the unique qualities of the communities that we serve.