



**SAN DIEGUITO ALLIANCE
FOR DRUG-FREE YOUTH**

P.O. Box 2448
Del Mar
California 92014

February 2010

Dear Senior Parents,

Each year the senior class officers spend many hours planning safe and healthy activities for the senior class, especially during graduation week. Nevertheless, each year some seniors spend an evening in Tijuana during that week. Three years ago, several buses were rented to go to Tijuana, and three students were still arrested on the street.

According to U.S. law, you must be at least 18 years of age to go across the border without your parent. Border guards will check identification. Offenders will be given citations, and parents will be called. **The U.S. government now requires a passport to gain entry into the U.S. for land travel.**

Given the present climate, it is not the best time for our sons and daughters to be going to Tijuana. Students may feel safe there, but Mexico is a foreign country with a different set of laws. Mexican officials are not sympathetic to teens entering their country, getting drunk, and misbehaving. They can be arrested and held for 72 hours without being charged. If arrested, a U.S. citizen only has the same rights as a Mexican citizen. He can call someone to arrange for bail. He can call the American Consulate, but only to make sure his rights are protected and to get help finding a lawyer.

The legal drinking age in Mexico is 18 years. Tijuana is strict and will arrest individuals with fake identification. In Mexico, driving under the influence is a major violation of the law, and there are many DUI checkpoints. Police will make arrests for this and for drinking in public, being a public nuisance and disorderly behavior.

Rape is a big problem in Tijuana, even for males. The availability of date rape and designer drugs have contributed to the problem. And if a person is caught carrying drugs, there is a minimum ten-year jail term.

Please take the time to talk to your son or daughter about participating in safe and sober activities. Give a clear, consistent message about not drinking, smoking marijuana or using other drugs. As parents, we want our children to be safe and rested, able to enjoy all the planned events for graduation week, especially graduation and Grad Nite.

Sincerely,

Bobbi Karlson
Executive Director
TPHS Foundation

Judi Strang
Executive Director
San Dieguito Alliance for Drug-Free Youth