



Press Release

Christine Brainerd, Public Information Officer
916.478.3632 (Office)
916.479.5337 (Cell)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Earns Statewide Support for Social Host Liability Resolution

Elk Grove, CA -- The League of California Cities has adopted the City of Elk Grove's Social Host Liability Resolution, an aggressive effort to crack down on underage drinking by holding adults and parents responsible for knowingly providing a venue for underage alcohol consumption.

The resolution was adopted by the League of California Cities at its annual conference last week.

"Underage drinking parties are a nuisance for the Elk Grove community, but more significantly, a public safety risk for our young people," said Mayor Pat Hume. "Elk Grove is proud to partner with the League of California Cities to take a stand against underage drinking, and those who enable it. I encourage more California cities to adopt similar resolutions to better address this very important public safety issue."

The goal of the Social Host Liability Resolution is threefold:

- Protect public health, safety and welfare
- Provide a legal means to address underage drinking on private property
- Reduce the cost of law enforcement ,fire and other emergency response services to premises where alcohol is served to or consumed by minors

Underage drinking and unruly parties can lead to an array of problems from traffic accidents, physical altercations and sexual assaults to noise disturbances and property damage.

Right now, California state law makes it illegal to serve alcohol to minors. However, the law does not address the consequences when a minor drinks alcohol while on private property, or when alcohol consumption is done with the consent of an adult. But cities can pass their own stricter ordinances that can apply within city limits.

The City of Elk Grove's Social Host Ordinance was approved unanimously by the Elk Grove City Council, and took effect this July. Elk Grove's ordinance was a concerted effort of the Elk Grove City Council, staff and members of the community.

The City of Elk Grove's resolution that was adopted by the League is below. For more information about the City of Elk Grove's Social Host Ordinance, contact Nicole York-Johnson at 478-8122 or nyork-johnson@elkgrovepd.org.

RESOLUTION RELATING TO SOCIAL HOST LIABILITY

WHEREAS, underage persons often obtain alcoholic beverages at gatherings held at private residences or at rented residential and commercial premises that are under the control of a person who knows or should know of the underage service and/or consumption of alcohol; and

WHEREAS, loud or unruly parties on private property where alcoholic beverages are served to, or consumed by an underage person, are harmful to the underage person themselves and are a threat to public health, safety, quiet enjoyment of residential property and general welfare, and constitutes a public nuisance; and

WHEREAS, persons responsible for the occurrence of loud or unruly parties on private property over which they have possession or control have a duty to ensure that alcoholic beverages are not served to, or consumed by underage persons; and

WHEREAS, adults who provide alcohol to adolescents explicitly indicate an approval of underage alcohol use; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement, fire, or other emergency responders repeatedly respond to underage drinking parties, resulting in a disproportionate expenditure of public safety resources on these parties, delaying police responses to other emergency calls throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement has inadequate enforcement authority and resources to respond to underage drinking on private property; and

WHEREAS, cities and counties require a variety of enforcement strategies to abate underage drinking parties; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the General Assembly of the League of California Cities, assembled in Annual Conference in San Jose, September 16, 2009, that the League support policies that hold social hosts responsible for underage drinking that occurs on property under their possession, control, or authority; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the League also oppose policies that make it easy for those who are underage to access alcohol through adults, and on private property.

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