

May 6, 2008 Board Meeting Presentation



Social Host Ordinance



Board Direction

- 1. Consider the adoption of policy direction to establish a Countywide Social Host Ordinance and direct staff to proceed with the necessary coordination and documents needed to adopt such an Ordinance**
- 2. Return to the Board within 90 days with an Ordinance for Board consideration**

Social Host Ordinance



What is a Social Host Ordinance?

- **A Social Host Ordinance holds responsible those individuals who host events at which underage individuals consume alcoholic beverages**
- **It applies to parents or other adults (such as older siblings or landlords)**
- **It applies to underage drinking that occurs on property those responsible adults own, rent, lease, or otherwise control**



Why is a Social Host Ordinance Important to Santa Barbara County?

Underage and binge drinking is a significant societal problem – it is the number ONE “drug of choice” for today’s youth and:

- **Alcohol is involved in teen deaths by a 4 to 1 ratio over all other illicit drugs combined**
- **It is a factor in nearly half of all teen car accidents**
- **It is also a factor in 50% – 65% of teen suicides**
- **Alcohol abuse is linked to as many as two-thirds of all sexual assaults**
- **Those who drink before age 15 are far more likely to become addicted than those who begin at age 21**



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Why is a Social Host Ordinance Important to Santa Barbara County?

- **A common way underage drinkers access alcohol is at parties**
- **These parties are commonly large gatherings in homes, at parks or beaches, or rented venues**
- **Parties are problematic because of the number of drinkers involved and the large quantities of alcohol consumed**
- **Reports of alcohol poisonings, traffic collisions, property damage, community disturbances, violence, and sexual assault are an all-too-common result of these events**

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Why is a Social Host Ordinance Important to Santa Barbara County?

- **Data gathered from Santa Barbara 7th, 9th, and 11th graders by *California Healthy Kids* shows alcohol is a serious problem**
- **Another indication of alcohol and drug abuse among the adolescent population is evidenced in the growing number of adolescents participating in alcohol and drug treatment programs:**

	1999	2004
# of Adolescent Participants	363	1,772



Why is a Social Host Ordinance Important to Santa Barbara County?

- **In a 2003 report, the National Academies Institute of Medicine: Urged states and local jurisdictions to enact a comprehensive set of strategies to reduce underage alcohol consumption, including Social Host laws, to deter underage drinking parties**
- **While there are laws that prohibit providing alcoholic beverages to underage youth, Social Host laws deter the host from providing a location for underage persons to possess or consume alcohol**



What other jurisdictions have Social Host Ordinances?

State and local communities across the nation are working to implement regulations, statutes, and ordinances that address the complex issues surrounding underage drinking. Some of other jurisdictions that have taken this approach include:

- City of Agoura Hills
- City of Berkeley
- City of Camarillo
- City of Carpinteria
- City of El Cajon
- City of Ojai
- City of Port Hueneme
- City of San Diego
- City of San Luis Obispo
- City of Santa Cruz
- City of Santa Paula
- City of Simi Valley
- County of Napa
- County of Ventura
- Town of Mammoth Lakes



What would the Social Host Ordinance accomplish?

Generally Social Host Ordinances recognize that loud and unruly parties on private property where alcohol is served to or consumed by underage persons:

- **Is harmful to the underage person;**
- **Is a threat to public health and safety;**
- **Disturbs the quiet enjoyment of residential property;**
- **Threatens the general welfare; and**
- **Is a public nuisance.**



Social Host Ordinances also recognize that:

- **Those responsible for loud or unruly parties have a duty to ensure alcoholic beverages are not consumed by underage persons**
- **Landlords have a duty to prevent such occurrences**
- **These occurrences often result in multiple calls to law enforcement and emergency responders resulting in expenditure of public safety resources**

Ordinances often include:

- **Imposing civil fees on social hosts to recover costs of providing law enforcement or other emergency response services which may act as a deterrent**
- **Criminal penalties in egregious circumstances or for recalcitrant offenders which may also be effective**

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Who is recommending a Social Host Ordinance for Santa Barbara County?

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Fighting Back and Public Policy Task Force Carpinteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CARES for Youth
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Santa Ynez Alcohol and Drug Coalition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Santa Barbara City's Project Alcohol
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Santa Barbara City's Drug Prevention Team Coalition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• District Attorney Christie Stanley
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The City of Santa Barbara	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sheriff William Brown



What are the goals of as Social Host Ordinance for Santa Barbara County?

- **Ensure Social Ordinances are effective and congruent across the County's municipalities and unincorporated areas**
- **Ensure the Ordinance reflects lessons learned from other counties across the State**
- **Ensure policies are pursued in a thoughtful, non-adversarial, and consistent manner Countywide**
- **Reduce underage and binge drinking and the associated negative consequences to individuals and communities**



How will the goals be accomplished?

- **The County will work to develop a Social Host Ordinance that accomplishes the identified goals**
- **This effort will be undertaken in collaboration with:**
 - ✓ **Key agencies and individuals**
 - ✓ **Law enforcement**
 - ✓ **Cities**
 - ✓ **County Counsel**
 - ✓ **CEOs Office**
 - ✓ **Other health and human services departments**



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