



April 28, 2010

Santa Barbara County  
Board of Supervisors  
Clerk of the Board  
105 East Anapamu St., Rm. 407  
Santa Barbara, Ca. 93101

Enclosed please find a resolution adopted by the Solvang City Council at the meeting of April 26, 2010. We would like to include this resolution on the agenda when the Social Host Ordinance is next addressed by the Board of Supervisors.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Ellen Rio".

Mary Ellen Rio  
City Clerk

Enc.

**RESOLUTION NO. 10-849**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOLVANG  
SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION BY THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF A SOCIAL HOST LIABILITY ORDINANCE**

**WHEREAS**, underage drinking is a growing problem nationally and locally with devastating consequences costing more than 53 billion dollars (\$53,000,000,000) annually according to data from the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies; and

**WHEREAS**, seventy percent (70%) of 11<sup>th</sup> graders at Santa Ynez Valley Union High School report that they have used alcohol and another fifty-two percent (52%) report having been very drunk or sick after drinking; and

**WHEREAS**, alcohol use by young people is extremely dangerous, not only to themselves – but to society as a whole and is a major factor in motor vehicle crashes, homicides, suicides, and unintentional injuries, which are some of the leading causes of death among youth; and

**WHEREAS**, alcohol is the number one drug of choice for America's young people and is associated with traffic fatalities, violence, unsafe sex, suicide, educational failure and other behavioral problems; and

**WHEREAS**, every day in the United States, 7,000 children under the age of 16 take their first drink; and

**WHEREAS**, thirty eight percent (38%) of our local high school students report using alcohol prior to age fifteen (15); and

**WHEREAS**, those who start drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to become alcoholics than those who begin at age 21; and

**WHEREAS**, students county-wide report that alcohol is very easy to obtain and is most frequently available at private parties hosted by both minors and adults who provide places and locations for underage to drink; and

**WHEREAS**, law enforcement reports that current laws are insufficient to curtail these parties and hold those hosting them accountable before the law; and

**WHEREAS**, a social host liability law will hold a person, who knowingly hosts a party or other gathering where underage age drinking takes place, responsible through monetary penalties; and

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**WHEREAS**, social host liability laws that have been adopted by numerous local governmental jurisdictions nation-wide and in California have proven successful, at low costs, in deterring underage drinking by reducing the accessibility of alcohol to those underage; and

**WHEREAS**, all local governmental agencies within Santa Barbara County should speak with a loud and single voice against the use of alcohol by those underage; and

**WHEREAS**, social host liability laws will be most effective if all local government agencies within Santa Barbara County that share mutual boundaries share a consistent law enforcement approach; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intention of the City Council of the City of Solvang to adopt its own social host ordinance by utilizing the ordinance adopted by Santa Barbara County as a model;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Solvang urges the Board of Supervisors to adopt a social host liability ordinance as soon as possible to help in reducing underage drinking.


**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of Solvang on this the 26th day of April 2010, by the following vote:

**AYES:** Mayor Richardson, Council Members Jamieson, Palmer and Skytt

**NOS:** Council Member Duus

**ABSTAIN:**

**ABSENT:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Richardson, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

By:   
Mary Ellen Rio, City Clerk