



CITY OF **SALIDA** POLICE

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

MEETING DATE: June 3rd, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: Social Host Ordinance

FROM: Bri Tucker (SRO) and Family Youth Initiative (FYI) Craig Bingham

For years, Salida Police Department personnel, other Law Enforcement agencies, FYI, and many others in the community have been working on a way to further curb teen drinking in our community. We have sat in a number of meetings and discussed these issues. We have also looked over the “Healthy Kids Survey Data” that was collected from the students in Chaffee County.

In looking at the Healthy Kids Survey Data, we learned that teens in Chaffee County reported they had easy access to alcohol and started drinking at an early age. The numbers in our community came in quite a bit higher than the state average. We have also learned that a lot of kids drink at the same house repeatedly.

After all our discussions, we decided to look at having each community adopt a Social Host Ordinance. By having each community adopt this ordinance, we will have consistency in Chaffee County. This will allow Law Enforcement to cite a person that constantly allows underage parties to occur in their homes. Law Enforcement currently has the ability to charge a felony on these situations - Contributing to the delinquency of a minor. That is not often charged because of the burden of proof and time it takes to put a case like that together. Usually, the juvenile gets an MIP citation and/or parents are contacted. This ordinance is different and is intended to be a tiered approach focusing on a small fine and education the first two times. It is also a way to keep from charging a felony in these types of instances. Below is the fine/penalty language for the courts to use when this citation is written into Municipal Court.

A first violation of this ordinance shall be punishable by a fine of up to \$250. A copy of the “Social Host Ordinance Pamphlet” shall be provided by the City to the responsible person, with details about consequences for further violations.

A second violation of this ordinance by the same responsible person within a three-year period shall be punishable by a fine of \$1000 and 20 hours of community service. The fine and community service will be imposed but suspended, to be waived upon voluntary completion by the responsible person of an educational course on youth substance use, which will be provided by the Chaffee County Department of Human Services, or another suitable organization as designated by the Chaffee County Department of Human Services. If the course is not completed within one year from the date of the second violation, the suspended fine will be imposed.

A third or subsequent violation of this ordinance by the same responsible person within a three-year period shall be punishable by a fine of no less than \$2,650 and no less than 40 hours of community service.

Attached are several letters of support from members of the community. If the Council agrees to move forward with this, we will bring it back for a 1st reading in late July. This gives the Council and anyone in the community a period of time to ask follow up questions and for the work group to make any changes prior to the 1st reading.

Thanks,

Chief Johnson