



CITY COUNCIL ACTION FORM

DEPARTMENT	PRESENTED BY	DATE
Police	Russ Johnson - Police Chief	July 2, 2024

AGENDA ITEM

Ordinance 2024-09: An ordinance for the City of Salida adding a Social Host Ordinance to the Municipal Code.

BACKGROUND

A local initiative was created several years ago to address teen drinking in Chaffee County. Data collected from the “Healthy Kids Survey” showed an above average use of alcohol by teens in our area. This survey also showed that teens in Chaffee County start drinking at an earlier age than the state average.

Over the past few years, Family Youth Initiative (FYI) worked on marketing and education campaigns against teen alcohol use. There has also been a committee working on adding a new ordinance to help curb underage parties at residences in our community. The police can currently charge a felony for people providing alcohol to a minor. However, it is not utilized very often and is a very lengthy process.

The working group which included Salida PD personnel, created a new local ordinance that allows police to issue a summons to a homeowner, tenant, lessee, or person organizing an underage party at their house. Under this ordinance, the person that knowingly allows this to happen will be cited into Municipal Court. If found guilty, the court will issue a fine, educational material, and require a person to attend a class. The courts will issue a tiered approach for subsequent violations.

The hope is to give the police a lesser charge to utilize in these situations and educate violators about the dangers of teen alcohol use. The County Commissioners and Buena Vista Trustees will also be asked to adopt similar ordinances to keep consistency throughout Chaffee County.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no fiscal impact at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff and FYI recommend adopting Social Host Ordinance 2024-09 into the Municipal Code.

MOTION

A City Councilmember should state “I move to _____ Ordinance 2024-09 on first reading and setting second reading and public hearing for July 16, 2024”, followed by a second and a roll call vote.