



CITY COUNCIL ACTION FORM

DEPARTMENT	PRESENTED BY	DATE
Police	Russ Johnson - Police Chief	February 18, 2025

AGENDA ITEM

Social Host 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. At the time of this beginning, police were able to 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 allowed 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 allowed this to happen would be cited into Municipal Court. If found guilty, the court would issue a fine, educational material, and require a person to attend a class. A tiered approach was created for subsequent violations.

The County Commissioners and Buena Vista Trustees were also asked to adopt similar ordinances to keep consistency throughout Chaffee County. However, as a result of recent meetings and changes in state statutes we are moving away from this. We have a state statute that is adequate in addressing this issue and the group feels we can now focus on something else.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no fiscal impact at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff, FYI and the City Prosecuting Attorney have decided to utilize a state statute that will be more relevant. We are now recommending not adopting the Social Host Ordinance 2024-09 into the Municipal Code.

MOTION

A City Councilmember should state “I move to deny the adoption Social Host Ordinance 2024-09”, followed by a second and a roll call vote.