



## Staff Report

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**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council  
**FROM:** Mary Beth Van Voorhis, Planning Director  
**DATE:** April 9, 2019  
**RE:** PLACER COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION PRESENTATION ON COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF A SOCIAL HOST ORDINANCE.

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### **Recommendation**

Youth leaders from the Placer County Youth Commission and students from Del Oro High School will provide a presentation to the Town Council to speak about why preventing underage drinking is important to them and their hopes for the future.

Staff recommends the Town Council receive their presentation and provide direction to staff to proceed with Ordinance for Council adoption at a future meeting.

### **Issue Statement and Discussion**

The Placer County Youth Commission, which includes student representatives from throughout the county, including Loomis, bring forward this issue to the Town Council out of concern for the dangers that accompany teenage drinking and other drug use. They want to reduce the potential for injury and harm, for themselves and their fellow students to shift norms and prevent underage drinking.

These young people are working to move policies and to educate and engage their communities about taking steps to reduce underage alcohol use. The youth leaders of the Placer County Youth Commission have successfully accomplished adoption of Social Host Ordinances in Placer County, Auburn, Rocklin, Roseville, and Lincoln. The Placer County Sheriff's Department also supports the goal of reducing underage drinking and other drug use.

### **CEQA Requirements**

None.

### **Financial and/or Policy Implications**

None.

### **Attachments**

Placer County Youth Commission – Social Host Ordinance – What and Why  
Placer County Youth Commission – April 11, 2019 Event Flyer

Prepared by the Placer County Youth Commission (PCYC), a youth commission focused on addressing issues that affect teenage lives, and Coalition for Auburn and Lincoln Youth (CALY), the Coalition for Placer/Rocklin Youth, community coalitions focused on preventing youth substance use.



# Social Host Ordinance: What and Why



## Placer Social Host Ordinance:

On April 10, 2018, the Placer County Board of Supervisors passed a Social Host Ordinance. This ordinance is a civil penalty that holds individuals accountable for hosting or providing a venue for gatherings where minors are possessing or consuming alcohol, marijuana or controlled substances.

## Underage Drinking and Drug Use in Placer County

*Placer County CHKS 2017-2018 Secondary Report*

### Current reported alcohol use:

Past 30 days

9<sup>th</sup> Graders: 7%

11<sup>th</sup> Graders: 13%

### Current reported marijuana use:

Past 30 days

9<sup>th</sup> Graders: 6%

11<sup>th</sup> Graders: 12%

## Social Host Ordinance Goals:

- Offers a disincentive
  - Accountability
  - Provides Law Enforcement with tool
  - Opportunity to increase awareness\* about harms and consequences of underage drinking
- \*coalitions can help with awareness campaigns

## Regional Social Host Ordinances:

In 2015 Rocklin, Roseville, and Truckee passed Social Host Ordinances. In 2017, Auburn and Lincoln each passed a Social Host Ordinance.

## Decreased Underage Alcohol Use:

*2013 -2015 Student Survey: 11<sup>th</sup> Grade - Past 30 day use*

Underage drinking is a major threat to the health and safety of youth. Research proves that not only does underage drinking lead to drinking and driving, a major cause of death among teens, it is also linked to a host of other negative consequences: lowered academic performance, high-risk sex, violence, and suicide.

**Why consider a Social Host Ordinance?** The earlier a young person is exposed to any substance use like alcohol, the more likely they are to develop life-long drinking problems. Reducing access to alcohol, marijuana or other substances is one of the best strategies for prevention. However, despite legal prohibitions against anyone providing alcohol to minors, it is still easy for them to obtain; especially at parties or large gatherings at a home, an outdoor area, or in other party venues (like a rented hall). Such gatherings have been shown to be a primary source of alcohol for underage youth. When alcohol is readily available, research shows teens tend to drink more heavily.

There are some adults who dismiss underage drinking as a normal “rite of passage” in adolescence. Some are willing to provide alcohol because they believe young people will be drinking anyway and it will be less harmful if it is supervised. However, the evidence indicates both of these assumptions are false.

State laws developed to prohibit possession, intoxication, and providing alcohol to a minor are difficult to enforce. For this reason, laws that hold adults accountable for providing or allowing underage drinking parties have become a tool for law enforcement and communities. In California, where the state law against social hosting is weak, many cities and counties have passed local ordinances.

## What is a Social Host Ordinance?

Social host liability laws hold adults accountable for allowing underage drinking events on property they own, lease, or otherwise control. Whereas laws prohibiting furnishing alcoholic beverages to underage persons target providing alcoholic beverages to underage persons, social host laws target providing the venue where underage drinking or other substance use takes place.

There are many variations of social host laws. Some are civil penalties, and some criminal holding the actual host of the party or the owner of the property accountable regardless of who provided the alcohol. This allows law enforcement to issue citations without having to establish who actually provided the alcohol, which is often difficult to prove.





The Placer County Youth Commission, Coalition for Auburn and Lincoln Youth, and Coalition for Placer/Rocklin Youth present...

# UNDERAGE SUBSTANCE USE TOWN HALL & COMMUNITY FORUM

Join us to...

- Learn about the increasing **underage drinking** and **drug use** issues in Placer County
- Discover ways to help **prevent** underage drinking and drug use
- Understand the **Social Host Ordinance**, a.k.a. the "Teen Party Law" in our community
- Discuss your questions and concerns with the panel of local **experts** and **resource providers**

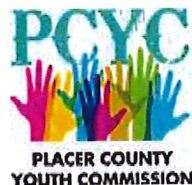


## THURSDAY APRIL 11, 2019 5:00-8:00PM

Placer High School Theater  
275 Orange Street, Auburn, CA



For more info, visit  
[www.raisingplacer.org](http://www.raisingplacer.org).



featuring...

### CHIEF RYAN KINNAN

Police Chief, Auburn Police Department

### CHRISTINA IVAZES

Health Educator, Placer County HHS

### ALEX WRIDE

Coordinator, Placer County Tobacco Prevention Program