



The City of Lake Forest
220 East Deerpath
Lake Forest, IL 60045

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – February 17, 2010

“Social Hosting” Ordinance Approved

Lake Forest has become the latest Lake County community to expand and strengthen rules to deter people who allow children to drink or do drugs at parties or other gatherings.

Adopted by the Lake Forest City Council on February 16, 2010, the ordinance will be in effect after publication in pamphlet form in the manner provided by law. The new “social host ordinance” is designed to hold any person, not just parents, accountable for events at which kids are drinking or using drugs.

It also expands the types of places where such rules can be enforced. The previous ordinance covered residences, while the new law adds hotels, parks, banquet halls, as well as vehicles such as limousines, busses, and boats.

The new law does not apply to alcohol consumed for religious ceremonies and provides a safety net for persons hosting a lawful gathering, by notifying the Police when circumstances get out of hand. Violators face fines of up to \$2,500.

Supported by the Lake Forest Police Department and the Speak Up! Prevention Coalition, the ordinance was approved by the City Council upon recommendation from the City’s Legal Committee.

“The new Social Host Ordinance is one important step in a comprehensive effort underway by our community coalition to significantly reduce the rate of underage drinking and other drug use,” said Betty Frank-Bailey, Director of the Speak UP! Prevention Coalition.

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The social host ordinance was proposed by the Lake Forest Police Department in conjunction with the Speak Up! Prevention Coalition, and is part of a collaborative effort across Lake County to prevent underage consumption of alcohol. The Lake County Underage Drinking Prevention Task Force, which includes the Lake County Chiefs of Police, Speak Up! Prevention Coalition of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff and other Lake county coalitions, has a goal of passing social host ordinances to cover every community within the county. Lake Forest is the 19th town to adopt such a law; Barrington, Deerfield, Highland Park, Lake Bluff, Mundelein, and other area towns have adopted similar laws.

For further information, please contact Deputy Chief Glenn Burmeister at 847-810-3804.

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