



January 25, 2012

DANE COUNTY COALITION CONTINUES IN SUPPORT OF NUISANCE PARTY ORDINANCE

The Dane County Coalition to Reduce Alcohol Abuse is pleased that the Nuisance Party Ordinance is again on the agenda of the Alcohol License Review Committee for January 25, 2012. We appreciate city leaders persisting in their efforts regarding this ordinance.

We respect the majority of the population that does not abuse alcohol. However, we believe that it is imperative for the city to adopt policies that will effectively contribute toward reducing those extreme situations of alcohol abuse which result in great personal and public cost. This ordinance will be an important step toward that goal.

Please refer to the attached copy of our original statement of support dated September 2011. We once again strongly encourage the ALRC to support this ordinance.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

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Dane County Coalition to Reduce Alcohol Abuse Statement on Nuisance Party Ordinance: Step in Right Direction But Must Go Further

The Dane County Coalition to Reduce Alcohol Abuse (DCCRAA) feels the Nuisance Party Ordinance is a step in the right direction to address dangerous drinking that goes on at house parties in Madison. Holding landlords accountable is a powerful tool in curbing these types of parties. However, this ordinance does not take the necessary step of punishing the host of the party in an effective manner.

To address this, the Coalition proposes that the city also consider adopting a Social Host ordinance, backed by strong evidence and proven effective in numerous cities in Wisconsin and states around the country that have adopted it. Some of the aspects of the Social Host ordinance which would make Madison's approach more effective in reducing dangerous drinking, whether it's on a college campus or at a high school student's parents' home, are as follows:

- "Holds persons civilly responsible who host events or gatherings where persons under 21 years of age possess or consume alcohol regardless of whether the person hosting the event or gathering supplied the alcohol;
- "A person who hosts an event does not have to be present at the event or gathering to be responsible;
- "'Host' or 'allow' means to aid, conduct, entertain, organize, supervise, control or permit a gathering or event;
- "A person is responsible for violating this ordinance if the person intentionally aids, advises, hires, counsels or conspires with or otherwise procures another to commit the prohibited act;
- "Residence, premises or public or private property includes home, yard, farm, land, apartment, condo, hotel or motel room or other dwelling unit, hall or meeting room, park or any other place of assembly whether occupied on a temporary or permanent basis, whether occupied as a dwelling or specifically for a party of other social function and whether owned, leased, rented or used with or without permission or compensation;
- "Penalties for violating this ordinance include a fine of not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$5,000 - if payment is not received a person can be held in jail until costs are paid."

(Manitowoc Social Host Ordinance listed in ACE Report)

The Coalition is pleased the city is working to curb the dangerous drinking that occurs at house parties throughout the city and we hope the city will use opportunity to truly address all types of dangerous drinking parties by adopting the evidence-based Social Host ordinance as well.

Thank you for your time.