



NEWS RELEASE

COLTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Steve Ward, Chief of Police

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Colton PD enforce social host laws to ensure a safe prom and graduation season

Summary: The Colton Police Department has stepped up its enforcement of the city's social host ordinance during prom and graduation season, a time when underage drinking at house parties spikes. This past prom weekend, officers issued one social host citation at a party which resulted in a \$1000 fine for the host. The ordinance, enacted last year, was created in response to the prevalence of underage drinking and a host of other related crimes at house parties. The ordinance holds party hosts responsible for providing an environment where underage drinking and unruly gatherings are allowed to occur. "We want residents to understand that allowing underage drinking is a crime that results in serious consequences," said Colton Police Chief Steve Ward. "The goal is not to prevent parties or celebrations, just ones where there is underage drinking. Our primary concern is making this prom and graduation season safe for everyone." Data from The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration show that alcohol-related fatalities increase between the middle of April and the middle of June, a time when youth celebrate the important milestones in their life. Colton PD will continue with party patrols throughout the upcoming graduation season in order to ticket violators of the ordinance. Residents are encouraged to report any potential violations of Colton's social host ordinance to law enforcement by calling (909) 370-5000. Additionally, if residents have questions regarding the ordinance, they may contact Colton Police Department.
