

8/26/05

Dear Community Group,

Earlier this year the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATOD) City Team presented the Health Kids Survey to City Council and staff. This survey showed a significant level of substance abuse, including alcohol, by Rio Vista middle and high school students. You may be aware that in a recent incident there was a case of alcohol poisoning resulting in the need to rush two local teens to an emergency medical facility. Statistics show that alcohol kills more male teenagers and young men than other drugs that are taken to affect mood. We want to do everything possible to protect our young people.

The City Council is very concerned about the high level of substance abuse among teenagers and young people in Rio Vista. On Thursday, August 18, 2005, Council passed a resolution in support of the Police Department's policy to require community groups to participate in responsible beverage service training as a condition for receiving approval for a special daily license to serve alcoholic beverages. The Responsible Beverage Service policy will help prevent underage youth from obtaining alcohol, will promote and enforce responsible beverage service, will change the conditions of availability of alcohol at special events, and will use a cooperative community-based approach to resolve the issue of underage drinking.

The ATOD City Team is sponsoring a training program on responsible beverage service on Saturday, September 10th, from 9:00 to Noon in the Firehouse. We are asking that you send at least one person from your organization to this training. Individuals involved in this training will be asked help train all beverage servers so we are prepared for the responsible distribution of alcohol at the next special event. Starting this process now is especially important so we are prepared for the Bass Festival coming in October, where this policy will be enforced.

Please see the policy attached and an informational brochure for additional information. We are looking forward to working with you to help reduce the impact of this serious problem on our community.

If you have any questions, please call Jenny Symons at City Hall, 374-6451 or Chief William Bowen at 374-6367.

Sincerely,

William V. Bowen, Police Chief
City of Rio Vista