



NEWS.....

FROM CHRIS HIGGINS

ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATOR 6TH DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COUNTY LEGISLATOR CHRIS HIGGINS ANNOUNCES PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED “SOCIAL HOST” LAW.

Sixth District County Legislator Chris Higgins announced today that Local Law “E” will be the subject of a public hearing scheduled for Tuesday, July 29, 2008, at 7:15 p.m. in the Albany County Legislature chambers. The Local Law will serve to deter underage drinking by holding those over the age of eighteen responsible when they permit the consumption of alcoholic beverages and drugs by minors at their residences.

The bill is intended to protect the public interest, welfare, health and safety within the County of Albany by prohibiting the services to and consumption of alcoholic beverages and drugs by persons under the age of twenty-one (21) at private premises located in Albany County. Although the New York State Legislature has acted to proscribe the unlawful giving, selling, and possessing of alcohol in relation to minors, it has not regulated the situation where a person over the age of eighteen knowingly permits the consumption of alcohol by a minor in his or her home.

“Albany County needs to take proactive steps to prevent underage drinking during social gatherings and parties,” said Legislator Higgins. “The bill I am sponsoring would hold accountable those who host parties and knowingly allow underage persons to drink alcohol,” Higgins explained. “As far as I’m concerned, allowing persons under the legal drinking age in New York to drink in your home during a social gathering is just as bad as supplying the alcohol itself,” reasoned Higgins.

Several counties throughout the Hudson Valley, including Dutchess, Ulster and Orange, have already adopted similar local laws in an effort to restrict underage drinking and hold those who provide outlets for this dangerous behavior fully accountable for their actions.