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## **Goodhue adopts mandatory alcohol seller/server training and social host ordinances**

GOODHUE - On Monday, August 1, the mandatory alcohol seller/server training and social host **ordinances** went into effect for the city of Goodhue.

The purpose of the alcohol seller/server training **ordinance** is to require all sellers/servers of liquor to complete a responsible beverage service training course on an annual basis before serving or selling liquor at local establishments. The **ordinance** does not apply to 3.2 beer licenses. Mandatory alcohol seller/server training **ordinances** have been proven to be an effective strategy to reduce minors' access to alcohol and over-service to adults. The alcohol seller/server training **ordinances** has been implemented in many Goodhue County jurisdictions including the cities of Wanamingo, Red Wing, Kenyon and rural areas of Goodhue County.

The social host **ordinance** makes it a misdemeanor for persons who knowingly allow minors to obtain, possess, or consume alcoholic beverages at private residences or private premises. Social host **ordinances** give communities a practical tool for holding persons criminally accountable if they allow underage drinking to take place on their property. The social host **ordinance** has also been implemented in the cities Red Wing, Kenyon and the rural areas of Goodhue County.

Substance abuse is a problem facing every community in America. Alcohol, marijuana, prescription drugs and other illegal and legal substances are being abused by young people and adults in this country, in our state, and in our local communities. The cost of this social problem goes beyond the dollars that are spent to cope with the consequences. The cost can also be measured in the tragedy of lives lost and lives destroyed.

A focus on prevention can yield important dividends for families and communities who are willing to put energy and resources into changing the current environment. Adopting environmental strategies to combat substance abuse has been proven to be effective in reducing the social consequences of underage drinking and illegal drug use.

Complex community health and social problems require comprehensive and collaborative solutions. These **ordinances** are examples of environmental changes that directly address the problem of youth access to alcohol as well as irresponsible use of alcohol by adults. The **ordinances** are sponsored by the Chemical Health Initiative Council of Goodhue.