



NEWS...

From

Legislator Tom Cilmi

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Legislator Tom Cilmi Hails Strengthening Of Social Host Law



Suffolk County Legislator Tom Cilmi (R-Bay Shore) applauded the passing of his bill to strengthen the County's Social Host law.

Cilmi said, "High school kids are telling me that 75% of them are drinking on a regular basis. What used to be high-school level drinking has now made its way to our middle schools. What's worse is that we have adults condoning this behavior."

Cilmi's bill increases the fine on the first offense from \$250 to \$500 and makes the second offense a misdemeanor punishable by up to \$1000 and a year in jail. He plans on meeting with officials from the Suffolk Police Department and the District Attorney's office to find ways to improve enforcement.

The original law was designed to penalize adults who serve alcohol in their homes to minors. Cilmi stated, “This sets a higher standard and brings the consequences more in line with the severity of the violation. Adults should not be serving alcohol to minors. It’s illegal and it sends a message that it’s OK to break the law.”

Cilmi says he’s been outspoken about the problem of underage drinking because it has far-reaching consequences. “Kids who drink, do so to get drunk. It’s unhealthy. It’s a gateway to prescription drug abuse and narcotics use. Alcohol related fatalities in the United States average more than 13,000 annually. These are just some of the immediate consequences. There are long term consequences as well...health care costs and our global educational competitiveness just to name two.”

At a general meeting of the Suffolk Legislature yesterday, Cilmi also voted to set strong minimum standards for breath alcohol ignition interlock devices, installed in vehicles used by convicted drunk drivers.

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