

## For Immediate Release:

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Contact: Manhasset CASA  
Cathy Samuels 267-7548



### **Manhasset CASA & Nassau County Police 6<sup>th</sup> Precinct remind community of Nassau County's Social Host Law**

It's basic common sense: underage drinking is unhealthy, unsafe and illegal! Teaching teens to drink responsibly is not an option for there is no such thing as "responsible" teen drinking. When kids drink, they drink heavily and to excess.

While parents may rationalize: "I'd rather my kids drink at home than in a car." or "If I let them drink a little now, they won't go crazy when they turn 21.", they need to think again:

- Underage drinking is a factor in nearly half of all teen automobile crashes, the leading cause of death among teenagers;
- Alcohol use contributes to youth suicides, homicides and fatal injuries – the leading cause of death among youth after auto crashes;
- Alcohol is linked to as many as two-thirds of all sexual assaults and date rapes of teens and college students;
- Alcohol is a major factor in unprotected sex among youth, increasing their risk of contracting HIV or other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are 63% more likely to get pregnant in their teen years. (*American Medical Association, www.ama-assn.org*)

Reaching across the community to protect youth from the dangers of underage drinking, Manhasset CASA has partnered with the Nassau County Police Department and Sixth Precinct as part of its Parents Who Host Lose the Most underage drinking prevention campaign. CASA wants to remind parents that a violation of Nassau County's Social Host Law is a **misdemeanor** – a **criminal conviction** and punishable by progressive fines and penalties:

#### **Parents should know that:**

- You and anyone over the age of 18 are breaking the law if you give alcohol to your teen's friends who are under the age of 21, under any circumstance; and
- You and anyone over the age of 18 are subject to prosecution by the Social Host Law if you knowingly allow a person under 21 to remain in your home or on your property while consuming or possessing alcoholic beverages.

#### **If you violate the Nassau County Social Host Law, it is**

- **A misdemeanor – a criminal conviction** and punishable by progressive fines and penalties:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense is subject to a fine of \$250;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense is subject to a fine of \$500;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense and future offenses are subject to a fine of \$1000 and/or up to a year in jail.

**Manhasset CASA and the Nassau County Police Department urge parents to:**

- Refuse to supply alcohol to anyone under 21;
- Be at home when your teen has a party;
- Make sure that alcohol is not brought into your home or property by your teen's friends;
- Talk to other parents about not providing alcohol at other events your child will be attending;
- Create alcohol-free opportunities and activities in your home so teens will feel welcome;
- Report underage drinking to the Nassau County 6th Precinct at Police Department at 516-573-6600.

The Parents Who Host Lose the Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking. It's against the law campaign, was developed by the Drug-Free Action Alliance, and partners with members of the community in order to educate parents and residents to the health, safety and legal consequences of underage drinking.

For more information about the campaign or if you would like to volunteer for Manhasset CASA, please contact Cathy Samuels at (516) 267-7548 or go to [www.manhassetcasa.org](http://www.manhassetcasa.org).



Officer Robert Browne, Nassau County Police 6<sup>th</sup> Precinct, displays Parents Who Host Lose The Most Poster to be displayed in collaboration with Manhasset local businesses.