

**MINUTES
COMMUNITY FORUM
LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
Wednesday, October 7, 2015**

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Luna County Board of County Commissioners met for a Community Forum at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 7, 2015 in the County Commission Chambers of the Luna County Courthouse, Deming, New Mexico, for the purpose of conducting a Community Forum regarding a Draft Social Host Ordinance.

The following staff and elected officials were present:

County Manager Charles "Tink" Jackson, Assistant to the County Manager Glory Juarez, Deputy Clerk JoAnna Zurinsky, Detective Michael Brown, Special Projects and Facilities Management Director Billy Ruiz, Code Enforcement Supervisor Frankie Tarazon, Detention Director Matthew Elwell, Partnerships for Success II Program Coordinator Jessica Jara, Lieutenant Richard Cowles, Lieutenant Joy Mullins, IT Technician Manny Armendariz, IT Technician Michael Lockard, Public Information Officer Matt Robinson, DWI Program Coordinator Edith Vazquez

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Milo called the community forum to order at 6:05 p.m. and Reggie Price led the Pledge of Allegiance and the salute to the flag of the State of New Mexico.

ROLL CALL: Deputy Clerk JoAnna Zurinsky called roll. The following members of the Board constituting a quorum were present:

**Chairman, Joe L. Milo, Jr., District 1
Linda M. Smrkovsky, District 2
R. Javier Diaz, District 3**

PRESENTATION BY LUNA COUNTY STAFF ON THE DRAFT SOCIAL HOST ORDINANCE:

Mr. Jackson explained the purpose of this evening's Community Forum, and stated that no action would be taken during this meeting, and that this presentation was a starting point on how to deal with the consequences of underage drinking.

Luna County and City of Deming Staff gave presentations pertaining to the Draft Social Host Ordinance: DWI Coordinator Edith Vazquez reviewed some of the problems and statistics that underage drinkers face. Detective Michael Brown reviewed crime statistics involving underage drinking and explained that although the State Statutes were somewhat vague, the interpretation of the law was subject to whichever District Attorney happened to be on call. The Social Host Ordinance is one way to deal with the issues that arise with this problem. Detective Brown explained the difference between prosecuting a land owner in a civil court of law versus a criminal court of law with burden of proof. Detective Brown also outlined

the enforcements or penalties that underage drinking carries that are being enforced. Gina Gentile with the City of Deming explained the City of Deming's Code pertaining to minors and alcohol use. Partnerships for Success II Program Coordinator Jessica Jara gave a power point presentation on the Social Host Ordinance. Ms. Jara's presentation outlined Luna County and national statistics pertaining to underage drinking, binge drinking, costs associated with underage drinking, alcohol sources for minors, economic impact, and the draft ordinance. Lieutenant Richard Cowles reiterated the presentation information that Detective Brown stated, and explained the challenges the Sheriff's Office faces with underage drinking.

Public Health Professional Holly Mata came from Alamogordo, and explained to the Commission that they are trying to get a similar Social Host Ordinance passed there, and some communities in New Mexico (Farmington) have passed Social Host Ordinances. Ms. Mata explained that there are currently no laws pertaining to Social Hosting at the state level in New Mexico, but there are 28 states nationwide that have enacted laws either criminally or civilly pertaining to it.

PUBLIC INPUT: Chairman Milo opened the floor to receive public input: Sean Blaine, Michael Brown, Mary Galbraith, Tom Lindsay, Ruth Stallard, Matt Robinson, Reggie Price, Jessica Jara, Audra Kennis, and Genie Wall came before the Board and addressed their concerns pertaining to the Draft Social Host Ordinance.

ADJOURN: Chairman Milo adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

ATTEST:



ANDREA RODRIGUEZ, CLERK


APPROVED: November 20, 2015



LUNA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


CHAIRMAN, JOE L. MILO, JR., DISTRICT 1


LINDA M. SMRKOVSKY, DISTRICT 2


R. JAVIER DIAZ, DISTRICT 3