

oral quarrel

Reader opinions mixed on serving alcohol

This week's Oral Quarrel question asked our readers: How do you feel about a city prohibiting you from serving your youngsters liquor? How would you prevent parents from serving their children liquor at parties?

Following are the responses:

I feel that the liquor served at home, it's a private party, I feel the city has nothing to say about it. When I graduated, I wanted to get a little loose that night. I suggest the parents put a basket, and any kid that comes in to put your keys in it, and if the parent feels they can't drive or shouldn't drive, they should call their parents and let them know.

I completely disagree. I think it is an intrusion in the privacy of the individual families. Not only that, but it is unenforceable and probably the best solution would be to just crack down on the drunk driving aspect.

Anyone serving young people liquor should get fined, and if the young person is involved in an accident after leaving their home, that adult serving them should be prosecuted.

I am in favor of the ordinance. No adult should serve liquor to a minor.

I believe they should let them get as drunk as they want and let them have a hangover and let them see what it is like. Oral Quarrel is great

If parents were parents they would not even consider serving liquor to their kids and friends. Mr. and Mrs. Rowdy, an excuse to drink at a graduation party. I was once there just like all these parents who are in this position

now, and we gave our folks the same song and dance. Nobody will show up if we don't have a keg at least. Come on Dad we'll play it cool. Baloney, don't give in. If you got good acts and plenty of good music, a few dark corners, they will all show up. The bad news is the drinking done outside the home. An accident happens and who gets blamed, the parents. You just can't seem to win. Have fun and stay alive Class of '85.

The so-called under adult supervision attitude is a total parental cop-out. No booze under any circumstances should be served or allowed but that doesn't mean it won't happen anyway. Most parents today have their act together. It only takes one of those totally cool parents to set the party up, and I am sure that those parents are not there reading this Oral Quarrel question today.

I am for such a law. I think it should be a law when you think of the consequences of drinking people, people who abuse alcohol. As far as penalties, they should be severe and the law should have some teeth in it. The problem with most of our laws is that they have too many loopholes and certain people with an attorney can get out of it.

Well if you can't beat them, join 'em.

As far as the city prohibition requesting that we not serve the youngsters, it might be unnecessary if parents were responsible and understood the example they set by breaking the law. They are highly detrimental to their children's emotional health.

This has got to be the dumbest question that you have put forth. There is a state law that you cannot serve anybody under 21. You don't need an ordinance. More clutter for local laws. We don't need any of that garbage. If they

serve anybody under 21, the police should just go and arrest them. You don't need another ordinance of all things.

I agree with Farmington Families in Action. I believe that parents should obey the law which says that no person is supposed to drink under the age of 21 and 1, as a parent of an 18-year-old, would not want her to go to another person's house knowing that they were serving liquor to youngsters.

I think a city ordinance is ridiculous. You already have a state law prohibiting the sale and serving of minors. Just to have another ordinance on the book which deals in somebody's home is ridiculous. If people can't control their parties and children, they shouldn't be hiding behind an ordinance.

I am all in favor of holding parents responsible if they serve alcohol to teens in their home. I disagree with Joan Dudley who feels government shouldn't get involved. The police need more specific rules to help curb the enormous problem of teenage drinking. The real problem is the parents are not home when these parties are going on.

It would be nice if parents would use their brains so that this ordinance would be unnecessary. As a member of MADD, I am all too aware of the stupidity of naive or lenient parents and this ordinance may be just what they need to say no to alcohol and drugs in the home. Lives are most definitely at stake here, theirs and mine.

I think it is an excellent idea. Something has to be done to wake up these parents and make them accountable. They are not going to do it on their own. I speak from experience. I lost my son at the age of 22 to an 18-year-old drunk driver.

I am against the proposed ordinance. I feel we should do everything to keep Big Brother out of our homes.

The issue is not serving your own children liquor, the issue is serving someone else's children. No one has the right to make alcohol an approved, attractive, available item for somebody else's children. There should be strong and civil penalties against giving alcohol to someone else's children.

Terrible. My husband just killed a 21-year-old boy drinking, and I have been restricted from driving the rest of my life myself.

Keep the kids and the booze at home under cover because they will go out and kill someone.

It should be made a state law. The kids will only go further out of the city to get liquor. My daughter is going to three proms, and I have signed a SADD contract. I have discussed that we disapprove of her drinking. Most important we have stressed her wearing seat belts.

I would appreciate having an ordinance preventing liquor from being served by parents and the way I would prevent it is hopefully by education. By educating parents through the newspapers, but primarily by television and radio, about the dangers and problems that have developed.

I don't think it is the city's responsibility. It is the parents responsibility. Apples don't fall too far from the tree. If parents drink, why shouldn't their teenagers. If Dad comes home under the influence of liquor driving, why shouldn't the teenager be allowed the same thing.

I think parents should be allowed to serve alcohol to their children because it is probably some people's heritage to have beer or wine. They should teach them to not overdrink and not to drive when drinking. How would you stop it going to a private home? Like the Gestapo did? But I don't think they should be able to serve other people's children alcohol.

I feel that parents should be prohibited from serving liquor to minors at parties. How many more teenage-driving related accidents must we experience before adults finally become wiser and more responsible regarding this issue. Check the April 25 issue of the Observer for recent statistics on alcohol related accidents in our cities.

I agree we should try to get parents

not to serve liquor at parties. How we can do that, I don't know. It is difficult but I think that at least if we start somewhere it might help to think drinking is acceptable.

Any so-called parent who serves liquor to a bunch of nitwit kids deserves a jail sentence. Everyone is sick and tired of these drunks tearing up neighborhoods and generally acting like a bunch of Neanderthals and killing people. Ignorant parents raise ignorant kids.

I am in favor of the ordinance. If it is passed legally, there should be no minors drinking at any graduation party thus parents wouldn't be pressured into serving liquor. Parents, how would you feel if the drinking teenager leaving your party killed or maimed someone?

I feel that the city should not pass the ordinance prohibiting parents serving youngsters liquor in a private home. I think by so doing the parents are abdicating their responsibilities. Parents should be smart enough and have enough backbone to realize the things you are supposed to do and not do.

I would serve them a punch. I am against liquor for teenagers.

The ordinance would be unfair because sometimes youngsters smuggle booze into parties and the parents are not aware of it.

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