

# STAFF REPORT

## City of Lancaster

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MVB

Date: July 14, 2015

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Britt Avrit, CMC, City Clerk

Subject: **Consideration of adoption of Ordinance No. 1004**

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### **Recommendation:**

Adopt **Ordinance No. 1004**, amending Title 9 of the Lancaster Municipal Code by adding Chapter 9.22 (Nuisance Gatherings and Social Host Accountability), relating to the imposition of administrative penalties against responsible persons who conduct, host or allow unruly gatherings that create disturbances of the peace and other nuisance activities, including but not limited to gatherings where alcoholic beverages are consumed by underage persons.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

While it is anticipated that the City will generate some revenue as a result of the issuance of administrative citations, it is not known at this time to what extent that revenue may be offset by the costs associated with the administrative review and appeal process. After some history with the program, staff will amend the Public Safety Department budget accordingly.

### **Background:**

The City's chronic nuisance property ordinance, adopted in 2008, was designed to reduce the number of calls for service by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) in response to complaints about disruptive social gatherings that create disturbances of the peace. The purpose of the ordinance was to deter property owners and other responsible persons from allowing disruptive gatherings to occur by charging them for the cost of law enforcement services associated with such service calls. While a useful tool, over time Chapter 8.52 has proven to require a significant amount of LASD, City staff and City Attorney time required to regularly review the LASD calls for service each month and track individual nuisance properties, and to generate and manage the paperwork associated with the cost recovery.

Ordinance No. 1004 establishes an administrative citation program that is designed to streamline the procedures of the chronic nuisance property ordinance while continuing to focus on reducing the number of LASD calls for service concerning unruly gatherings, by imposing financial penalties on responsible persons when such gatherings occur. The Ordinance also allows for immediate issuance of an administrative citation to persons who are engaging in certain unlawful nuisance activities.

At the June 23, 2015 meeting, the City Council approved the introduction of Ordinance No. 1004 by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Mann, Smith, Underwood-Johnson, Vice Mayor Crist, Mayor Parris  
NOES: None  
RECUSED: None  
ABSENT: None

**Attachment:**  
Ordinance No. 1004