

SAY San Diego Questionnaire – Bob Filner

Underage drinking prevention: Social Host Ordinance

1. As Mayor of San Diego, how would you build community awareness of the Social Host Ordinance?

I think there is an incredible resource in your organizations: Critical Voice, Latino Youth Council and Elevated Student Relations – you are all to be commended for the work you are doing and the insight and connection you clearly have with the community. As I have said throughout my campaign, everyone will have a seat at the table and that means you too. The key in building community awareness of any issue is involving people who are connected with the community. I would welcome your suggestions and insight into the best way to raise awareness and with open dialogue and communication come up with an effective way to reach people about the Social Host Ordinance.

A recent study conducted by a San Diego County Public Health and Safety prevention initiative points to the fact that nearly 70% of San Diego residents are unaware that it's illegal for adults to supply alcohol to youth in their private home.

Minors often obtain, possess or consume alcoholic beverages at gatherings held on private property under the control of an adult who knows or should know of the conduct but fails to stop it. These high risk settings mixing alcohol and youth include: Graduation parties for high school youth, Prom, smaller home hosted parties with and without parental sanction, massive parties held by youth during summer season and public events such as picnics or other outdoor activities.

House parties or adults providing alcohol to youth in a private setting disproportionately contributes to alcohol related crime and police calls for service. It costs the City money! This youth access to alcohol is more than kids getting drunk in a friend's home. The science tells us these young people aren't just drinking socially; they're drinking to get drunk – 5 or more drinks at a time. It's called binge drinking and that leads to a litany of harm that includes: DUI, Violent crimes rape/sex crimes, alcohol poisoning, neighborhood vandalism, unplanned/ unprotected sex, homicides and suicide.

There is a REAL cost to public health and safety. We must keep this dilemma in check by devoting the full force of municipal executive powers given to me as Mayor to enhance a partnership between public safety, public health and prevention.

2. Would you champion the allocation of resources to the San Diego Police Department toward sustained enforcement of the Social Host Ordinance? If so, what are your ideas for identifying this source of dedicated revenue?

I believe enforcement of the Social Host Ordinance is crucial for the safety of our youth and preventing underage drinking. I would encourage the police department to continue

to make sure it is properly enforced and I would stay apprised with the police department about their budget and revenue needed to properly enforce the ordinance.

It's not necessary to always reinvent the wheel. As Mayor, I will enforce the existing Ordinance that already has a cost recovery strategy within the Code. I'm committed to working closely with the City Attorney and the Chief of Police to ensure they have the tools necessary to enforce the law and protect public health.

Alcohol Licenses

3. As Mayor of SD, what steps would you take to address the problem of alcohol licenses over saturation in certain communities such as PB, North Park, and City Heights?

As Mayor of San Diego, what steps would you take to address problem of alcohol licenses over saturated in certain communities, such as Pacific Beach, North Park and City Heights?

During my campaign I have emphasized the importance of putting neighborhoods first. Everyone deserves to live in a neighborhood that is safe, clean, well-kept and has businesses that are successful. Clearly from the research you conducted there is some work to be done on the side of retailers. My goal would be to make sure there is compliance with all regulations on the business end of it and that consequences with non-compliance are adhered to and delivered quickly.

4. Would you champion the idea of giving local government a greater role in the alcohol-licensing process?

I am open to the idea of discussing whatever might be best for our communities based on advice given by the people who live there and conduct business there.

5. What steps would you take to cultivate a stronger partnership between state and local agencies to ensure compliance with Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) and Neighborhood Code Compliance laws that govern alcohol licensees?

One thing that could be very effective is to connect and cultivate relationships with your organizations and state and local agencies involved. Attaching a personal connection to the concerns and fear you are expressing can make a big difference as policies are formulated.

BILLBOARD ORDINANCE

6. The City of San Diego is one of a handful of municipalities that have passed ordinances that prohibit alcohol advertisements on billboards located near schools, parks, child care centers and playgrounds. As Mayor of San Diego, would you champion the idea of revising the existing ordinance to include teen recovery centers?

I am open and receptive to feedback from the community and those who run the teen centers. If there is evidence that those billboards can be detrimental to their recovery then there must be dialogue on how to find a compromise between the centers and business owners to provide a fruitful and fair resolution.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION

7. As Mayor of San Diego, how would you make sure that retailers are not selling unregulated synthetic drugs such as Spice and Bath Salts?

I believe our police force is incredibly good at what they do. I would establish regularly scheduled updates from the department to see what they are doing to stay on top of that issue.

8. How can a Mayor be an advocate for restricting access to drugs, particularly among youth?

Communication, communication, communication. I believe when we pay attention to an issue and communicate the dangers of drug use to our youth through programs, schools, organizations such as yours and through city efforts we can make a difference. Consistently letting our young people know they are loved and worthy of a healthy successful life free of drug abuse is one way to start.

BULLYING

9. As Mayor of San Diego, would you work with community stakeholders to create a city-wide public awareness campaign against bullying?

Again I believe there is power in talking about an issue and bringing awareness. I would absolutely be in favor of working with everyone in our city to protect our children and youth from bullying through campaigns and dialogue.

10. What steps would you take to cultivate a civic environment that upholds mutual respect and civility?

If you haven't already read the book "Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior," by George Washington, it's a quick read and a good example of one way to approach cultivating a civil environment. Although some of the rules are a little outdated, perhaps even silly, the rules focus on respecting other people rather than focusing narrowly on our own self-interests. With that kind of attitude we can accomplish great things, and that is the environment I will foster when elected Mayor of San Diego.

BUILDING A PARTNERSHIP WITH YOUTH

11. As Mayor of San Diego, what would be your vision for empowering young people to

play an active role in local government?

The sky is the limit when it comes to a vision for our youth. From internships and mentoring programs and bringing together public and private entities to offer support to our youth, I want to provide opportunities for you to succeed in every way possible.

12. What steps would you take to engage young people, including homeless, foster and at-risk youth, in your policy agenda to improve the quality of life in our community?

I believe a city is responsible for its children. If we all work together to provide a safe place for kids from 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. things will get better for many of our youth. Imagine if we had programs where kids could visit the museums in Balboa Park through an after-school program, or the Padres and Chargers offered sporting programs before or after school? What about asking local businesses to pitch and offer programs that would not only give kids a safe place to hang out after school but would provide them with an education to the outside world that might inspire them to achieve more than they thought they could? One of my favorite quotes is from Robert Kennedy who said, “Most people look at things the way they are as ask why? I dream of things that never were, and ask why not?” That is my vision for our youth.