

TOWN OF PARADISE VALLEY

Review of Unruly Gathering Ordinance

February 14, 2019



Today's Purpose

- Upon the approval of the Unruly Gathering Ordinance, the Town Council requested a periodic review of the ordinance.
- This presentation provides the Town Council the opportunity to review and provide input.



Unruly Gathering

- Definition: a gathering of 5 or more people on private property which causes a disturbance of the quiet enjoyment of private or public property by any person or persons AND includes one of the following:
 - Excessive noise
 - Impeding traffic
 - Fighting
 - Littering
 - Disturbing the peace
 - Obstruction of public streets by crowds or vehicles
 - Service of alcohol or consumption of alcohol by minors
 - Use or possession of illegal drugs
 - Drinking in public areas



Unruly Gathering History

- In FY 17, the Town began receiving complaints about the impact of short term rentals on neighborhoods, through noise complaints and special events at Short Term Rentals (STR).
- During FY 17, a working group of Council members and staff created a “party house” protocol that allowed officers to gather information needed to prosecute owners or operators of STR with code violations.



Unruly Gathering History

- Enforcement of the Town Noise Ordinance, proved to not be a great deterrent due to the low fine (\$150) associated with a conviction.
- Town Code Violations for hosting special events proved to be a lengthy process.
- A new solution was sought to address these behaviors, which would give neighborhoods a break from these activities.



Unruly Gathering History

- Staff researched other Arizona municipalities with unruly gathering ordinances and used three from college towns as a guide in drafting a Paradise Valley ordinance.
- In October 2017 and February 2018, the proposed ordinance was presented to the Town Council during study sessions, input was received and places into draft ordinance.
- In March 2018, the Town Council approved the Unruly Gathering Ordinance and requested a one-year review of the results.

The Ordinance took effect April 7, 2018.



Unruly Gathering Direction

- Enforcement should be “sensitive to the needs of the community” on this issue.
 - Enforcement efforts directed toward those not abiding
 - Use grace and dexterity when dealing with first time violators



Unruly Gathering Results

- How did we do?
 - 103 Music or Party complaints between May 1, 2018 and January 22, 2019.
 - On 74 (72%), the responding officer provided education to the suspected residence and either did not observe a violation or gave a warning on a violation that was appropriately corrected promptly.
 - On 18 (17.5%), the responding officer did not witness (measure) a violation and did not make contact at the residence.



Unruly Gathering Results

- How did we do?
 - Staff sends warning letters to residence owners where the owner might have been unaware of the activity at the residence.
- Owner/Manager actions
 - Property managers hiring private security companies to check on the properties.
 - Owners placing noise collectors, which transmit a signal to the property manager/owner if the decibel limit is exceeded.
 - Owners providing contact info to neighbors to call if an issue arises.
 - Owners/managers placing signs detailing the noise limits of the Town Code inside the property.
 - Owners/property managers changing contracts to impose a fee if tenant does not comply with Town ordinances.



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Questions or Comments?

