



## Town of Princess Anne's Neighborhood Nuisances and Unruly Social Events Ordinance

*New law brings \$500 fine,  
possible eviction*

The Town of Princess Anne passed a new law in April 2016 to provide neighborhoods with a more effective tool to address the problems emanating from loud and unruly house parties. Under the new law, police can now write a civil citation on the spot, similar to a speeding ticket, to the property owners, property managers, occupants, and/or tenants when a loud and unruly party takes place.

**A loud and unruly party is** a gathering of two or more people on private property at which:

- Alcohol is illegally furnished to anyone under 21 or someone under 21 is illegally consuming or possessing alcohol; or
- Conduct is disturbing the peace:
  - Excessive noise;
  - Excessive traffic (pedestrian or vehicle) that is above and beyond the norm;
  - Obstruction of public rights-of-way by unruly crowds;
  - Public drunkenness;
  - Assaults, batteries, fights or other disorderly conduct;
  - Vandalism;
  - Public urination;
  - Littering; or
  - Any other conduct that threatens the health, safety, quiet enjoyment or general welfare.



### Persons Responsible

- The owner, operator, tenant, or occupant of any premises, whether alone or jointly with any other person is a "person responsible" under this ordinance. "Persons responsible" for a loud and unruly party remain liable for violating the ordinance even if they were not present during the event.
- If the person responsible for an unruly event is under 18, they and their parents or legal guardians are jointly and severally liable for the civil penalties imposed by the ordinance.

### Penalties for Responsible Persons

1<sup>st</sup> offense: \$500 fine

2<sup>nd</sup> or subsequent offenses\*: \$1,000 fine

*\*12 month look back period to enhance penalties*



### Defense for Owners

Property owners or operators can defend themselves from any fine if:

- They didn't authorize, know about, or participate in the event, and they prove:
  - a. They evicted the tenant(s), or
  - b. They filed court proceedings to evict the tenant(s), or
  - c. They have not received more than three violations for the same dwelling unit within a 12-month period.