

## **Loud or Unruly Gatherings**

### **452.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

Municipal Code Section 9.37 (and appropriate subsections) has been enacted to address police responses to properties on which repeated loud or unruly gatherings occur. The legislation addresses fines and cost recovery associated with continued Police/Fire/City Emergency Responder responses to the same address as a result of these disturbances.

### **452.2 POLICY**

The department will utilize Municipal Code Section 9.37 and appropriate subsections to address the issue of continued police response to the same address for loud or unruly gatherings. Supervisory approval from the on-duty Field Supervisor shall be obtained prior to taking action under this section.

### **452.3 APPLICATION**

Enforcement procedures are outlined in the Municipal Code (Attachment A). Upon response to the location of a loud or unruly gathering and, after evaluation by the officer and approval by the supervisor that a loud or unruly gathering has occurred, and that the police department has responded to that location within the past 12 months on a loud or unruly gathering, the officer may enforce the section. The officer will complete the citation, the "Notice of Violation and Warning" form, and the police report. All documents will be forwarded per department procedures. The officer shall also advise NETCOM to flag the address as receiving the warning under this section. The Police Payroll and Purchasing Clerk shall be responsible for notifying the landlord in writing of first response no sooner than 10 days after the response occurred, and complete the billing process for the responsible persons in violation of the ordinance. The forms for this notification are attached (Attachment B).

Application of this Ordinance does not relieve the officer from the responsibility to properly apply other code sections (Penal, Health & Safety, Business & Professions, etc.) as necessary in the performance of their duty.

  
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HOWARD SKERRY  
Chief of Police

# Attachment A

## ORDINANCE NO. 2005-20

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ AMENDING  
SECTIONS 9.37.010, 9.37.020, 9.37.030, 9.37.040 AND ADDING  
SECTIONS 9.37.050 AND 9.37.060 TO THE SANTA CRUZ MUNICIPAL  
CODE PERTAINING TO SPECIAL SECURITY SERVICE CHARGES  
AT LOUD OR UNRULY GATHERINGS

BE IT ORDAINED By The City Of Santa Cruz As Follows:

Section 1. Section 9.37.010 of the Santa Cruz Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

“9.37.010. DEFINITIONS.

The following terms used in this Chapter shall have the meanings set forth in this Section.

(a) “Responsible person(s)” shall mean a person(s) with a right of possession in the property on which a loud or unruly gathering is conducted, including, but not limited to, an owner or tenant of the property if the gathering is on private property, or a permittee if the gathering is a permitted gathering on public property, or any person(s) accepting responsibility for such a gathering. “Responsible person” shall additionally include the landlord of another responsible person and the parents and/or legal guardians of responsible persons under the age of 21 years. To incur liability for special security service charges imposed by this Chapter the responsible person need not be present at the loud or unruly gathering resulting in the emergency response giving rise to the imposition of special security service charges. This Chapter therefore imposes vicarious as well as direct liability upon responsible persons.

(b) “Special security services” shall mean the provision of any police, fire or other emergency response service to a loud or unruly gathering within twelve months of a first response as provided in this Chapter.

(c) “Loud or unruly gathering” shall mean a gathering of two or more persons on private property or a permitted gathering of two or more persons on public property whose loud or unruly conduct constitutes a threat to public health, safety, quiet enjoyment of residential property or general welfare, including violations of Chapter 9.36. This term excludes incidents of domestic violence. A loud or unruly gathering shall constitute a public nuisance.”

Section 2. Section 9.37.020 of the Santa Cruz Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

**“9.37.020. RESPONSE TO LOUD OR UNRULY GATHERINGS.**

When a police officer responds to a first loud or unruly gathering at premises in the City with a given address, the officer shall inform any responsible person at the scene that:

- (a) The officer has determined that a loud or unruly gathering exists; and
- (b) Responsible persons will be charged for the cost of any special security services required for subsequent responses to the scene within the next twelve months.”

Only one warning will be given pursuant to this Section before the City assesses special security service costs pursuant to Section 9.37.030. If a responsible person cannot be identified at the scene, the Police Department may issue a warning to one of the other responsible persons identified in Section 9.37.010(a) or subsequently return to the scene and issue the warning to a then-present responsible person. Warnings given to responsible persons who do not reside at the premises in question shall be delivered by certified mail.

Section 3. Section 9.37.030 of the Santa Cruz Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

**“9.37.030. COST RECOVERY FOR SPECIAL SECURITY SERVICES.**

When the Police Department or Fire Department or other City emergency responder responds to a loud or unruly gathering at premises with a given address in the City within twelve months of a warning given to a responsible person for those premises pursuant to Section 9.37.020, or while any such warning remains in effect pursuant to Section 9.37.050, all responsible persons shall be jointly and severally liable for the City’s costs of providing special security service for that response and all subsequent responses during that warning period.”

Section 4. Section 9.37.040 of the Santa Cruz Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

**“9.37.040. BILLING AND COLLECTION.**

Charges for special security service shall include a reasonable charge for the emergency responder’s time and actual costs of any equipment used or damaged in connection with the response, together with an additional thirty-three percent of the special security charge for administrative overhead. These charges shall be computed and a bill submitted to the responsible person(s). The Chief of Police shall promulgate notice and billing procedures for this purpose. The bill shall be a debt owed to the City and failure to pay that bill within thirty days is a violation of this Code. If the City is obliged to initiate litigation or other proceedings authorized by Title 4 of this Code to recover this debt, the responsible person shall be liable for:

- (a) Costs of suit;
- (b) Attorney’s fees; and
- (c) Costs of collection.”

Section 5. Section 9.37.050 is hereby added to the Santa Cruz Municipal Code to read as follows:

**“9.37.050. VIOLATIONS/FINES.**

(a) It shall be an infraction for a responsible person to conduct or allow a loud or unruly gathering on premises owned by the responsible person or on premises rented by or to the responsible person. A third or subsequent violation within a twelve month period shall constitute a misdemeanor.

(b) Fines.

(1) A first violation of this Section shall be punishable by a \$250 fine.

(2) A second violation of this Section at a given address in the City within a given twelve month period shall be punishable by a fine of \$500.

(3) A third or subsequent violation of this Section at a given address in the City within a given twelve month period shall be punishable by a fine of \$1,000.

(c) The fines prescribed at subsection (b) are in addition to any special security service charges that may be assessed pursuant to this Chapter.

(d) The second, third or subsequent violation fines prescribed at subsections (b)(2) and (b)(3) are payable whether or not the responsible person at the time of the current loud or unruly gathering is the same person who was the responsible person for any prior loud or unruly gathering at those premises.

(e) The fine schedule prescribed at subsection (b) is a “rolling schedule” meaning that in calculating the fine payable the Police Department or City Attorney shall count backward starting from the date of the most recent loud or unruly gathering to determine how many prior loud or unruly gatherings have taken place at the premises in question during the statutory twelve month period. A warning given pursuant to Section 9.27.020 shall remain in effect for the premises at a given address until a full twelve month period has elapsed during which there have been no loud or unruly gatherings at those premises.”

Section 6. Section 9.37.060 is hereby added to the Santa Cruz Municipal Code to read as follows:

**“9.37.060. SERVICE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TO MINORS.**

The City Council hereby finds that the service of alcohol to minors at loud and unruly gatherings and the consumption of alcohol by minors at loud or unruly gatherings has in the past and continues to pose a threat to the health and safety of all persons who reside in the City and also causes significant disruption of City residents’ quiet enjoyment of their households, especially in the City’s residential neighborhoods. In addition, such conduct on behalf of persons who serve alcohol to minors and minors who consume alcohol at loud or unruly gatherings results in the expenditure of a disproportionate percentage of the City’s police, fire and public safety resources which are underwritten primarily by general municipal taxes paid to the City by its taxpayers and residents. It is therefore the policy of the City Council that in responding to loud or unruly gatherings, the City Police Department shall strictly enforce any and all applicable state laws

pertaining to the service of alcohol to minors, and the consumption of alcohol by minors, and with respect to minors in possession of alcohol, the Police Department shall establish a “no tolerance” protocol by which the Police Department contacts, or causes the minor’s school to contact, the minor’s parents or legal guardians whenever the minor is found to be in possession of alcohol or narcotics or found to be intoxicated at a loud or unruly gathering. Where the minor’s school has an internal student disciplinary office any such incident shall likewise be reported to that office”

Section 6. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days after its final adoption.

# Attachment B



## CITY OF SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT



### NOTICE OF VIOLATION and WARNING Pursuant to 9.37.020 SCMC

Date	Day	Time	Case
Location:			
Responsible Party: Last Responsible Party	First	Middle	[ ] Owner [ ] [ ] Renter
Residence Address:			
Alcohol Present: [ ] Yes [ ] No		Approx # of People	
Other Violations:			
Arrests Made: [ ] Yes [ ] No			

#### CITY OF SANTA CRUZ SUBSEQUENT RESPONSE FOR LOUD OR UNRULY GATHERINGS

The Police Department receives complaints involving loud and unruly gatherings which frequently require subsequent responses. Return calls to the same address for similar disturbances may leave police officers unavailable to perform other duties that may have greater community priority, and can leave other areas of the city without an available officer.

A "Special Security Services" fee will be charged, per City of Santa Cruz Municipal Code section 9.37, to the responsible party of gatherings that require subsequent responses by the police department within one calendar year after receiving this initial warning. The fees consist of charges for all personnel, equipment, and public property damages sustained during any subsequent returned to the location. In addition to the Special Security Services fees, the police department will issue a citation for the violation resulting in a fine of \$250, \$500, or \$1,000 depending on the number of subsequent responses required.

This NOTICE OF VIOLATION constitutes a warning to reinstate the public peace. I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understand the information written above.

**X**

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF RESPONSIBLE PARTY

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE/TIME

\_\_\_\_\_  
OFFICER SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
BADGE #

**White Original:** SCPD Records  
Party

**Yellow Copy:** SCPD Purchasing/Payroll Clerk

**Pink Copy:** Responsible

SCPD-089 Rev. 7/18/2005