

Dear Councilmembers,

The Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council area includes parts of the City that are recognized as having some of the most active and persistent party houses. These areas are also served by LAPD stations having a great deal of experience with handling party houses.

Parties in our neighborhoods are especially dangerous because they can create ingress and egress issues on narrow streets that impede passage of emergency vehicles. Party goers will often park in ways that fully block streets. On top of this, they bring crime into neighborhoods (5 killings in Benedict Canyon alone) and, of course, quality of life issues.

Our communities were very hopeful about the potential efficacy of the party house ordinance when it was initially passed. We believed that the escalating series of fines would provide a sufficient deterrent without keeping residents from entertaining guests in a reasonable manner.

Our real-world experience is that an LAPD patrol officer responding to a party call will only rarely issue a citation, even when this action is specifically requested by residents, and even when the party in question is taking place at a notorious nuisance location. There are no fines, and therefore no escalating fines to act as a deterrent.

The promoters who rent houses for parties, and the many websites who list these rentals are well aware that patrol officers will likely not arrive until after dawn, and that if they do, they will merely ask for the music to be turned down.

During the height of the pandemic and before, Hollywood Station was sometimes able to staff a “party car” with officers who went out with the sole purpose of ticketing for parties, and this was effective in shutting down a number of locations. Current staffing and crime levels mean that the “party car” is out very infrequently.

Additionally, the Neighborhood Prosecutors, who would address party problems in the past, seem to be no longer tasked with handling this issue.

For this reason, we support the motion.

We offer the following suggestions and observations:

- Renting out a house for a party or event is commercial activity which should not be allowed in a residential zone.
- Party houses are often rented out on an hourly basis through platforms catering to event planners and location scouts. Rental for parties should not be lawful on these platforms, and listing residential homes for events should be unlawful.
- Homes are often rented for parties and sometimes multi-day events by major corporations. These events do not belong in neighborhoods.

- Given current staffing, LAPD should not be the only department with the authority to respond to parties. Providing funding for code enforcement officers to enforce party codes may be a more practical response.

Our residents are grateful for continued action on this issue.