

158. AN ORDINANCE REGARDING ALCOHOL POSSESSION BY MINORS IN THE CITY OF GROTON PROPOSED BY THE LEDGELIGHT HEALTH DISTRICT AND GROTON ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION (GASP) COALITION AND THAT IT BE EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE (INITIALLY APPROVED AUGUST 1, 2005, FINALLY APPROVED SEPTEMBER 6, 2005)

WHEREAS, possession and consumption of alcoholic liquor by minors is a matter of a growing local, regional and national concern; and

WHEREAS, the consumption of alcoholic liquor by minors unsupervised by parental authority creates a health and safety risk not only to our children but also to the general public; and

WHEREAS, the City of Groton seeks to protect, preserve and promote the health, safety, welfare and quality of life of its residents by regulating the possession of alcohol by minors;

WHEREAS, the City of Groton Mayor and Council meeting held on August 1, 2005 initially approved this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance was published in *The Day*, a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Groton on August 5, 2005 and August 6, 2005;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council **finally** approve “An Ordinance regarding alcohol possession by minors in the City of Groton” proposed by the LedgeLight Health District and Groton Adolescent Substance Abuse Prevention (GASP) Coalition and that it be effective upon passage, as follows:

SECTION 1: PURPOSE

To regulate the possession of alcoholic beverages by minors on both public and private property.

SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS

ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR – shall have the same meaning as the same term defined in Title 30, section 30-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended from time to time.

HOST – to organize a gathering of “two or more person, or to allow the premises under one’s control to be used with one’s knowledge,

for a gathering or two or more persons for personal, social or business interaction.

MINOR – any person under the age of twenty-one (21) years old.

PERSON – any individual, firm, partnership, association, syndicate, company, trust, corporation, limited-liability company, municipality, agency, or political or administrative subdivision of the state or other legal entity of any kind.

SECTION 3: POSSESSION

No person under the age of twenty-one (21) shall be in possession of containers of alcoholic liquors, whether open or closed, within the City of Groton except when accompanied by or in the presence of his or her parent, legal guardian, or spouse, who has attained the age of twenty-one (21) years. This restriction shall apply to both public and private property.

SECTION 4: HOSTING EVENTS

No person shall host an event or gathering at which alcohol will be consumed by or dispensed to any minor unless said minor is accompanied by or in the presence of his or her parent, guardian, or spouse who has attained the age of twenty-one (21). This restriction shall apply to any event or gathering within the City of Groton whether conducted on public or private property.

SECTION 5: EXCEPTIONS

The provisions of Section 3 and 4 of this ordinance shall not apply to the following:

1. A minor who possesses alcoholic liquor on the order of a practicing physician or any person who sells, ships, delivers or gives any alcoholic liquors to a minor on the order of a practicing physician.
2. A person over the age of eighteen (18) who is an employee or permit holder under Section 30-90a of the Connecticut General Statutes and who possesses alcoholic liquor in the course of such person's employment or business or in the course of a sale, shipment or delivery of alcoholic liquor made to a person over age eighteen (18) who is an employee or permit holder under Section 30-90a of the Connecticut General Statutes and where such sale, shipment or delivery is made in the course of such person's employment or business.

SECTION 6: PENALTIES

Any person violating any provision of this Article shall be subject to a fine of \$100.00 (one hundred dollars).

Initially approved: August 1, 2005
Finally approved: September 6, 2005


Dennis L. Popp, Mayor


Debra Patrick, City Clerk