

Plan Ahead For Holiday Parties

As invitations begin rolling in for holiday parties, the San Marino Police Department would like to remind residents to plan ahead to ensure that parties go smoothly and are enjoyed by all those involved.

When parties become loud or a nuisance to others in the neighborhood, the police are sometimes called to the house. Although calling City Hall or the Police Department in advance of an event does not guarantee that there will be no problems or police response at the actual party, it can be very helpful in reducing the likelihood of such a response.

If there is a special event permit, valet permit or tent permit needed, this issue can be resolved in advance. To help ensure that none of these issues arise at the last minute, it is best to send a letter prior to the event with information such as the date, time, location, number of guests and details about entertainment or music. This provides the party host, City and Police Department with documentation of what has or has not been done in advance.

Oftentimes party hosts don't notify their neighbors about an upcoming event. While this is not required and there is no guarantee that this type of notification will eliminate any complaints, it is both courteous and generally successful in reducing or eliminating any potential problems. It is also helpful to provide neighbors with a telephone number so that they can contact the party host directly if they have a complaint. When neighbors are aware that a party will be taking place, what it is for and when it will be over, they are usually more understanding about any impact it may have on their daily routines.

Despite taking all of these measures, the situation can still arise where a neighbor calls the Police Department to complain about a party. Responding officers will investigate and, if there is a violation, they will address it. For example, if the complaint is about loud music or noise, they will inform the party host and give them an opportunity to resolve the problem. If the situation is not resolved to the satisfaction of the officer or the complaining party, the officers will take appropriate measures

to rectify the issue.

With proper advanced planning and cooperation, these simple steps can go a long way toward helping everyone enjoy a great holiday season and parties.