



HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT Department of Community Services

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 24, 2008

For more information contact: Joseph V. Ryan, Manager
Harford County Office of Drug Control Policy

Town Hall Meeting – Underage Drinking

(Bel Air, MD – March 24, 2008) - - Harford County is joining a Nationwide network of 1,600 community-based organizations and citizen's groups by sponsoring a 2008 Town Hall Meeting on underage drinking prevention. One alarming reason for this is that 60% of Harford County's 12th graders in public and private high schools have tried binge drinking. Binge drinking is defined as drinking 5 or more drinks per occasion.

Our County Executive, David R. Craig, has stated: *“One of the greatest challenges that confronts the youth of our county is the reality of underage drinking. In the concern we all have for our young people it is vital that we all join together, community-wide, to openly confront, discuss and bring light to the implications and roles we can all play in prevention of this growing societal darkness.”*

The **2008 Under Age Drinking Prevention: Town Hall Meeting** to learn the facts and discuss under age drinking will take place on **Tuesday, April 1, 2008, from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.** This open forum will be held at the Abingdon Branch of the Harford County Public Library; 2510 Tollgate Road, Abingdon, MD 21009.

Mr. Joseph Ryan, Manager of the Harford County Office of Drug Control Policy, The Harford County Sheriff's Office and the Harford County Liquor Board will participate, facilitate and raise awareness at this meeting related to the issue of underage drinking. The Harford County Department of Community Services' Office of Drug Control Policy, in collaboration with the Federal Government's Interagency Coordinating Committee for the Prevention of Underage Drinking, is sponsoring the event. Parents, teachers, officials, youth, and other community members will be educated about the impact that underage drinking has on the community, and they will develop possible ways to address this issue.

There is no cost to attend this meeting. For more information please contact Joseph Ryan at 410-638-3333 or e-mail jvryan@harfordcountymd.gov