



**For Immediate Release
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Underage Drinking: Not a Minor Problem!
*PRIDE Coalition Community Committee Members Announce
Strategy to Prevent Underage Drinking*

The City of Glen Cove is one of numerous localities statewide selected to participate in the New York State *Underage Drinking—Not a Minor Problem* education and awareness campaign developed by the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (OASAS). Teams have been trained under a grant administered by the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) program, Combating Underage Drinking.

According to the Bach-Harrison Prevention Needs Assessment administered in January 2010, the rates reported for alcohol use by Glen Cove teens are above national norms, with 25% of students reporting taking part in binge drinking. Students reported a lower perception of risk for alcohol use along with a perception that “everyone is doing it.” Most high school Seniors reported that it is very easy for them to obtain alcohol products and reports of having rode in a car with a driver who had been drinking are as high as 20% among this grade level.

“Prevention and education are the best tools we have to combat the dangerous effects of teen drinking. Working with community members, we can address the harmful effects of alcohol use both inside and outside the home environment,” said Arlene González-Sánchez, NYS OASAS Commissioner.

The elimination of underage alcohol use in Glen Cove has been an ongoing initiative of the SAFE Inc. PRIDE Coalition. Through a combination of prevention, education, and law enforcement efforts, SAFE Inc. combats the devastating effects that can result from underage drinking and drug use in order to build a safer Glen Cove.

The underage drinking prevention campaign is designed to raise awareness of the serious consequences of drinking and deliver prevention messages to community leaders, public officials, health and prevention professionals, parents, educators, and youths. The goal of the campaign is to continue this initiative through educating community members with the most current information on topics related to underage drinking. By providing information and resources for both teens and parents, this campaign takes a multi-functional approach, including providing education as well as encouraging open dialogue about alcohol use.

“Teen drinking is a serious problem that affects us all,” stated Councilman Tony Jimenez, PRIDE Community Committee Chair. “We are enthusiastic in partnering with NYS OASAS in sharing this information throughout our community to raise awareness about this potentially dangerous issue.”

“The PRIDE Coalition remains committed to preventing teen alcohol abuse and encouraging the community members to take an active role in spreading the awareness to our youth,” stated Dr. Sharon Harris, SAFE Executive Director and PRIDE Coalition Co-Chair.

For more information regarding the *Underage Drinking Not a Minor Problem* campaign, SAFE, Inc and the PRIDE Coalition, or to view SAFE Inc.’s Public Service Announcement, visit www.safeglencove.org. Want to follow the PRIDE Coalition on Facebook? Find us at <http://www.facebook.com/GlenCovePrideCoalition>.



Members of the PRIDE Coalition Community Committee proudly displaying the campaign banner. From Left: Dr. Sharon Harris, PhD, SAFE, Inc. Executive Director and PRIDE Coalition Co-Chair; Reverend William Wendler, SAFE Executive Board Member; Sgt. Christopher Ortiz, Glen Cove Police Department; Councilman Tony Jimenez, PRIDE Community Committee Chair; Georgie Connett, SAFE Inc. Executive Board Chair.



As “crash car” was placed at the entrance to the Glen Cove High School to remind students of the consequences of underage drinking, especially during prom and graduation season. (Crash Car courtesy of Nassau District Attorney’s Kathleen Rice’s office.)

