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## MICHAEL J. RUBIO

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SUPERVISOR - FIFTH DISTRICT

May 23, 2006

### **Board of Supervisors Approves “Cool Parents” Ordinance**

Supervisor Rubio is proud to announce that the Kern County Board of Supervisors approved the creation of an ordinance that will impose civil penalties on adults that serve alcoholic beverages to underage persons. The Supervisor developed this effort in collaboration with Nancy Chaffin from A Life Interrupted to stem the tide of untimely deaths of young adults where they were served alcohol by irresponsible parents or other adults.

This ordinance imposes a fine of up to \$1,000 on adults who have an underage drinking party. Furthermore, the Board of Supervisors may also impose community service requirements, recovery of response costs, and the placement of a lien on the adult’s property to ensure that the civil penalties are indeed paid in timely fashion. Of course, the County of Kern will only be able to implement this ordinance in the unincorporated areas of Kern County, including the various county islands within metropolitan Bakersfield. The eleven incorporated cities in Kern County will need to bring this same ordinance before their respective City Councils for adoption and implementation within their city boundaries.

Nancy Chaffin—who tragically lost her son in 2001 and has been active in making this ordinance a reality here in Kern County—recently said, “Everything we do to ensure the safety and well-being of the young people in our community is an investment in our future. This ordinance is a step in the right direction.”

“Whenever a young person dies or is injured following the irresponsible actions of an adult, we must hold that adult responsible. Unfortunately, the criminal justice system is greatly overburdened, so the District Attorney’s Office is oftentimes unable to prosecute these crimes.” said Supervisor Rubio. “This ordinance will finally impose civil penalties on these irresponsible adults though administrative procedures at the Board of Supervisors level.”