



## Council Agenda Correspondence

**DATE:** February 4, 2025

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**FROM:** Police Chief Rick Scott

**VIA:** Whitney McDonald, City Manager

**SUBJECT:** ITEM 3B - MARCH SAFETY ENHANCEMENT ZONE PREPARATIONS  
POWERPOINT

Staff received a request from a City Council to have the PowerPoints (Attachment A and B) for the March Safety Enhancement Zone Response Plan provided prior to the City Council meeting.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- A – Cal Poly St. Patty's Preparations PowerPoint
- B – City March Safety Enhancement Zone Preparations PowerPoint

# ST. PATRICK'S DAY: CAL POLY PREPARATIONS

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Presented by:

Cynthia Vizcaíno Villa, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs

Allison Baird-James, Senior Vice President, Administration and Finance



**CAL POLY**

# KEY EFFORTS

## Comprehensive Response Plan

- Proactive outreach students to discourage neighborhood partying and disruptions.
- Security on and off campus, including collaboration with the city and police to maximize enforcement.
- Planning a special event that draws students to campus.
- Targeted communication and outreach.

# ZERO TOLERANCE APPROACH IN CITY

- Holding students accountable for violations of law and campus policies.
- Off-campus violations to be reported to Cal Poly's Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.
- Enhanced patrols and coordination with SLOPD for maximum enforcement — high visibility, zero tolerance.
- Ongoing outreach to Fraternity and Sorority Life.
- Promotion of city's Safety Enhancement Zone.



# ON-CAMPUS ENFORCEMENT

- Increased number of officers on campus.
- No guests allowed in University Housing from March 13-18.
- ID checks and increased staffing at all building entrances.
- Road closures and parking restrictions in place.
- Quiet hours to be strictly enforced.



# ON-CAMPUS EVENT

- March 15 on campus — significant investment to draw students out of neighborhoods.
  - Early-morning event with amplified sound in Sports Complex Lower Fields.
  - Ticketed event, 18+, open to public.
  - 5,000 attendance cap.
  - Headliner to be determined.





# HARM REDUCTION & CLEAN UP

- Harm-reduction efforts: hydration boxes, overdose education, food and water stations.
- Clean-up efforts on March 16 organized by Fraternity and Sorority Life and the Center for Service in Action.



# PARTY PREVENTION

## Multi-Prong Approach to Ending the Party

- Visible presence on campus leading up to and throughout the St. Patrick's Day weekend.
- Clear communications and messages to all students.
- Meetings with the Fraternity and Sorority Life community.





# TOP PRIORITIES

## Priorities for the weekend:

- Health and safety.
- Minimize damage and disruptions.
- Successful university event to keep students on campus.



# IN SUMMARY



**We have zero tolerance for breaking laws and policies.**

We will hold students accountable for violating laws and policies, such as possession of alcohol and drugs, inviting out-of-town guests, etc.




**Cal Poly will host a safe alternative event to keep students on campus.**

The event will be held on campus on Saturday, March 15.



**Safety is our top priority.**

Many additional staff members will be on site. We will offer hydration and food as well as proactive education.

A light gray background featuring a subtle topographic map pattern with contour lines. A solid gold horizontal bar is positioned at the top of the slide.

Thank you for your  
partnership.

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# March Safety Enhancement Zone Preparation

City Council Presentation  
February 4, 2025



CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

# Safety Enhancement Zone Overview

- December 2004 - Council enacted Chapter 9.22 of the San Luis Obispo MC.
- Entire City a safety enhancement zone during specific dates/times.
- Protect the public health, safety, and welfare of SLO Community:
  - Chapter 9.04 Possession or consumption of alcohol in public
  - Chapter 9.05 Social Host – minors consuming or possessing alcohol
  - Chapter 9.12 Noise Control
  - Chapter 9.13 Unruly Gathering
  - Chapter 9.16 Dangerous and Deadly Weapons
  - Chapter 9.20 Urinating in Public



## Safety Enhancement Zone Overview

Chapter 9.13 of the San Luis Obispo Municipal Code: Unruly Gatherings

*“conduct that causes a **substantial disturbance** of the quiet enjoyment of private or public property in a significant segment of an immediate neighborhood, or presents a threat to the health and safety... shall include, but is not limited to, ...presence of **persons on rooftop** areas not designed for occupancy”*



# Safety Enhancement Zone Overview

- 2004 – SEZ adopted to police **Mardi Gras** after riot occurred in February 2004
- 2010 – **Halloween & St. Patrick's Day** SEZ were added
- 2013 – **Start of School** SEZ was added
- 2024 – SEZ **expanded** dates for more coverage of **St. Patrick's Day** and **Halloween**
- During a SEZ, fines for *public urination, open container, unruly gatherings, and noise* are doubled





# Safety Enhancement Zone Overview

## Routine Fines

- First Offense: **\$350**
- Second Offence (in 12 mo. Period): **\$700**
- Third and subsequent (in 12 mo. Period): **\$1000**

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# Safety Enhancement Zone Overview

Chapter 9.22 of the San Luis Obispo Municipal Code: Safety Enhancement Zone

*“12:01 a.m. on March 17th until 7:00 a.m. on March 18<sup>th</sup> AND include the two weekends prior to St. Patrick’s Day, beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Friday and ending at 7:00 a.m. Monday morning. Should St. Patrick’s Day fall on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, the safety enhancement period would begin at 12:01 a.m. on Friday and end at 7:00 a.m. on Monday.”*



# Safety Enhancement Zone Overview

| 2025 MARCH  |   |         |           |          |  |  |
|---|---|---------|-----------|----------|--|--|
| SUNDAY  | MONDAY  | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY   |
|   |   |         |           |          |  | 1  |
| 2   | 3   | 4       | 5         | 6        | 7   | 8   |
| 9    | 10  | 11      | 12        | 13       | 14  | 15  |
| 16  | 17  | 18      | 19        | 20       | 21   | 22   |
| 23  | 24  | 25      | 26        | 27       | 28   | 29   |
| 30  | 31  |         |           |          |  |  |

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# March Safety Enhancement Zone Preparation

## Challenges and Lessons Learned

- Reactive approach led to difficulties in managing the situation
- Growing numbers of attendees, specifically out-of-town students
- “Pregame” damage at Cal Poly
- Return to rooftop gatherings and pole climbing



# March Safety Enhancement Zone Preparation

## Improvements and Successes

- Shifted to proactive approach.
- Significant increase in both arrests and citations.
- Recognized event has evolved into a destination “party”.
- Successes included:
  - Many known party houses and Greek houses did not host parties, reducing crowd staying power.
  - Interception of alcohol before reaching the street party, reducing alcohol-fueled issues.
  - Significantly cut the duration of the event.



# March Safety Enhancement Zone Preparation

## Key Strategies for 2025

- This year will be much more **proactive** based on resources.
- Proactivity starts early:
  - **Low to no tolerance for behaviors** the month leading up.
  - **Increased educational efforts**, including:
    - Presentations to Greek life organizations, Interhousing Council, ASI
    - Neighborhood Canvassing beginning February 15<sup>th</sup>
    - Social Media paid and organic posts (state-wide ads)
    - Properties receiving DAC/Cite to receive SEZ handout in Feb/March
    - Messaging to Other Universities to Discourage Attendance



# March Safety Enhancement Zone Preparation

## General Plan for This Year

The number one goal is **SAFETY** for entire community and responders.

### Max Personnel Deployment

- Patrol
- Foot Patrol
- Bike Patrol
- Motor Units
- Additional assistance from other agencies
- Fire and Medic Rescue





# March Safety Enhancement Zone Preparation

## **Zero Tolerance Enforcement Efforts**

- Proactive Enforcement
- Alcohol Violations
- Assault-Related Crimes
- Administrative Violations with a Focus on Safety Enhancement Zone



# March Safety Enhancement Zone Preparation

## Defining Success

- **Early Intervention:**
  - Partnership with Cal Poly to **end** this unsanctioned event in the neighborhood.
  - Proactively diverting & managing crowd.
  - Early Deployment to address potential issues before they escalate.
- **Alcohol Interception:**
  - Preventing illegal alcohol consumption to reduce disorderly conduct.
  - Enforcing laws to limit excessive drinking and its associated risks.
- **Reduction/Elimination of Dangerous Behaviors:**
  - Preventing hazardous actions such as pole climbing and individuals accessing rooftops.
  - Minimizing incidents of property damage to maintain a safe and orderly environment.
- **Safety and Well-being:**
  - Ensuring there are no serious injuries among citizens or peace officers.
  - While the goal is to end the unsanctioned St. Patrick's Day-related event, **this will take time.**
    - Current success criteria is to reduce attendance.

