No “WARNING” tickets will be issued. There will be a massive police presence on campus and in campus-area neighborhoods and a zero-tolerance for anything that violates or appears to violate the law.

Police likely will cite celebrants under State Statutes instead of City ordinance violations for underage possession of alcohol, consumption of alcohol, fake ID, disturbing the peace, and disorderly conduct, etc. These are all Misdemeanors under State Statutes that can involve being processed at the Champaign County Jail, which means fingerprints and the potential of a permanent criminal record.

Conviction of any alcohol offense:
(a) driver’s license suspended for three months IF Court Supervision is allowed.
(b) Without court supervision a one year suspension.
Finding a job, summer or permanent, without a valid license is difficult to impossible.

Records cannot be expunged until two years after completion of the sentence. Expungement does not erase all traces of an arrest or conviction; off-shore, private investigation services mine for information such as arrests.

Thorough background checks are standard. 60% of all employers admit that they check out job applicants on Facebook. Maximum privacy settings can be hacked (heard of Wiki-leaks?). There is no law protecting your Facebook embarrassments from being used by employers.

There are potentially huge career consequences to having way too good of a time on “unofficial”. That mug of beer at age 19 can mug your future career!

Thomas E. Betz, Attorney at Law
Director, Student Legal Service, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign