ALL THE PARTIES SHOULD BE OVER BY 2 A.M.

Mayor On Right Track In Seeking To Limit Drinking Hours

The mayor knows that he will not be without opposition. "While this proposal may be met with some opposition, I cannot help but believe that the vast majority of parents and other concerned citizens in this city would support such a move," the mayor told the City Council.

There will be hollering. This week Lastrapes said that there will be complaints from many businesses who will claim they will suffer untold financial harm if this ordinance becomes law.

But we believe the mayor is right. We simply have to deal with our problem of too much drinking in this community.

Acting Police Chief James Romero adds some very pertinent information. "Over the past few months, numerous crimes of violence, such as murder, attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon and threats of violence have occurred during the early morning hours. In almost every case, late hour drinking has been involved," he said.

Not ultimate solution. Now we are sure that neither the mayor nor Romero believes that if we close the bars at 2 a.m. all crime in the city is going to cease. It certainly will not.

But the point is that even if we reduce the crime rate 10 percent by doing this, it will make us just that much safer.

Romero said that from 4 a.m. March 1, 1980 to 3:41 a.m. Jan. 9, 1982, there were 720 accidents involving alcohol. In 717 of the accidents, the driver was drunk. About 26 percent of the accidents took place between 2 a.m. and 10 a.m.

He said that in 1981 there were 17 murders; nine were alcohol- or drug-related; and eight took place after 2 a.m. This year nearly half of the city's 11 murders were alcohol-or drug-related and nearly half took place after 2 a.m.

Take a positive approach. We realize that some business establishments will lose money from the early morning closings, but we believe in the long run everyone will be better off.

We have become a party town and statistics show that the majority of the drinking drivers arrested come from out of Lafayette. We are inviting everyone to come to Lafayette for a party and the result is that the citizens of Lafayette are not safe because these party-goers are either driving drunk or get involved in some type of criminal activity.

There are people who make a lot of money selling porn in bookstores and showing it at the movies, but we have drawn the line in allowing this in our community. Now we believe that we are going to have to shut down the partying at 2 a.m.

We agree with Lastrapes and hope that he will be able to withstand the opposition. We would hope the City Council will agree and we can make another big stride toward making Lafayette a safe place to live.