

Resolve 19 -08/09

Passage: 6/15/09 8-0 (Duson absent)

JILL C. DUSON (MAYOR)
KEVIN J. DONOGHUE (1)
DAVID A. MARSHALL (2)
DANIEL S. SKOLNIK (3)
CHERYL A. LEEMAN (4)

**CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL**

JOHN R. COYNE (5)
JOHN M. ANTON (A/L)
NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES (A/L)
DORY RICHARDS WAXMAN (A/L)

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE ONE MAINE ONE PORTLAND'S 'POSITIVE TICKETS PROJECT': STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS & BUILDING ASSETS FOR PORTLAND'S YOUTH

WHEREAS, according to the 2000 U.S. Census report, over 14% of Portland's population lives in poverty. This compares to 8.1% for Cumberland County, 10.7% for the state and 13.3% for the nation; and

WHEREAS, approximately one third of the people living in poverty in Portland are less than 18 years old, 40% of these are under 5 years old; and

WHEREAS, Portland High School completion rates are below state averages – 2006 data indicates a 76.14% graduation rate at Deering High School and a 73.55% rate at Portland High; and

WHEREAS, Portland's youth substance abuse prevalence rates tend to have a higher rate of use of most substances than their peers throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Portland students' average Prior 30-Day Use of Alcohol exceeds the state average by 3.9%; and

WHEREAS, The jump from 8th-9th graders for binge drinking is extremely high, going from 7.8% to 18.1%, respectively and the state average for 9th graders is 11.0%; and

WHEREAS, 14.9% of 6th graders feel unsafe at school, as compared to the state average of 12.1%, and 20.2% of 7th graders in Portland Schools reported feeling unsafe at school as compared to the state average of 12.9% for that grade level; and

WHEREAS, Juvenile arrests for drug and alcohol violations have more than doubled in the last ten years; and

WHEREAS, The only major categories of juvenile arrests that grew between 1994 and 2003 were related to drug and alcohol offenses. Drug offense arrests climbed 105 percent between 1994 and 2003; and

WHEREAS, the Positive Ticket idea started with a Police Officer, Superintendent Ward Clapham of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who had a simple vision... "Imagine cops catching kids for doing things right"; and

WHEREAS, the Positive Ticket is a simply a coupon, voucher, token, or note, that has value for goods, services or some type of credit, acknowledgement or appreciation that are issued to youth for staying out of trouble or performing good deeds as the gateway to the relationship; and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond, British Columbia, Canada experienced an amazing 41 % reduction in their youth crime over a three-year period; and

WHEREAS, the Positive Ticket program is based on advanced leadership principles which include the belief that your people are your most valuable asset, and you should constantly recognize your people for doing the "right";

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council supports the Positive Tickets Project and its implementation in Portland.