

**CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL**

NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES, JR. (MAYOR)
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**THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2011
“YOUTH ALCOHOL PREVENTION MONTH”
IN THE CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE**

WHEREAS, alcohol continues to be the number one drug of choice among Portland youth; and

WHEREAS, research shows the human brain continues to develop into a person’s mid-20’s and that development is influenced by a person’s environment and exposure to drugs and alcohol; and

WHEREAS, children are five times as likely to develop alcohol dependence if they begin to consume alcohol between the ages of 15 and 17, than those who wait until 21; and

WHEREAS, underage drinking is linked to youth depression, academic failure, suicide, and violence, including sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, alcohol continues to kill more youth than all other illegal drugs combined; and

WHEREAS, studies show parents talking to other parents and taking other concrete steps to prevent underage drinking are the most powerful influences in a young person’s life; and

WHEREAS, the Minority Health Program of the City of Portland’s Department of Health and Human Services and 21 Reasons have partnered to bring Table Talks: Parents Connecting for Alcohol-Free Youth to our Latino and Somali communities; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey found 28% of Portland students in grades 7-12 reported drinking alcohol in the past 30 days of that survey-a continued decline; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey found almost 90% of Portland students reporting that their parents feel it is WRONG or VERY WRONG for kids to drink alcohol; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 Portland Parent Phone Survey found 90% of parents answered, “NO” to the question, “Is it ever OK for your teen to drink alcohol,”; and

WHEREAS, the same Parent survey also found 96% of parents say they would NOT allow their teen’s friends to drink in their home AND 95% of parents feel it is very important for parents to try everything possible to prevent their teen from drinking alcohol; and

WHEREAS, despite these great strides, few parents surveyed said why alcohol prevention is important or named the concrete preventative steps, such as counting and locking your alcohol; and

WHEREAS, even though we’ve made great progress, there is still a lot of work to do.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in furtherance of these important efforts, I, Nicholas M. Mavodones, Jr., Mayor of the City of Portland, Maine and the members of the Portland City

Council, do hereby declare the month of April, 2011 Youth Alcohol Prevention Month within the City of Portland, and hereby invite the citizens of Portland to participate in the schedule of events, and hereby pledge support for continued strategic efforts to reduce youth alcohol access and consumption in our city.