

Resolve 11-08/09

Passage: 3/3/09 9-0

JILL C. DUSON (MAYOR)
KEVIN J. DONOGHUE (1)
DAVID A. MARSHALL (2)
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CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

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

**RESOLUTION DECLARING APRIL AS GUN VIOLENCE
PREVENTION MONTH IN THE CITY OF PORTLAND**

WHEREAS, 30,000 Americans across the country are killed every year as a result of gun violence, destroying families and communities in big cities and small towns; and

WHEREAS, As elected officials we are duty-bound to do everything in our power to protect our residents, especially our children, from harm, particularly injuries and death caused by guns and those who use them to injure and kill others; and

WHEREAS, Suicide is the second leading cause of death in Maine for youth aged 15-24, claiming an average of 21 young lives per year and if a gun is used to attempt suicide, a fatal outcome will result 78% to 90% of the time; and

WHEREAS, The City of Portland suffered a tragic loss in the shooting death of James Angelo, a prominent and respected member of Portland's Sudanese community and a security guard at Mercy Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Portland residents have been the victims of drive by shootings and Portland businesses and citizens have been the victims of armed robberies, one of which occurred as recently as February 17th, 2009; and

WHEREAS, on July 17th, 2006 the Portland City Council unanimously passed a Resolution supporting the Mayors' Summit on Illegal Guns; and

WHEREAS, in the month of April terrible tragedies occurred in Columbine, Colorado and on the campus of Virginia Technical College from the violent and illegal use of guns;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor Jill Duson and the members of the City Council, do hereby declare April as Gun Violence Prevention Month and endorse the participation of the Mayor in the organized effort known as Mayors Against Illegal Guns.