

**Resolve 13-08/09**  
**Passage: 4/6/09 9-0**

JILL C. DUSON (MAYOR)  
KEVIN J. DONOGHUE (1)  
DAVID A. MARSHALL (2)  
DAN 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 DECLARING**  
**THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2009 “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**, children who consume alcohol before age 17 are twice as likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who abstain from alcohol until they are 21; and

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

**WHEREAS**, alcohol kills more youth in this nation than all other illegal drugs combined; and

**WHEREAS**, more than fifty research studies have found that the 21 Minimum Legal Drinking Age saves lives, both on and off the road; and

**WHEREAS**, the 21 Reasons Coalition and the One Maine One Portland Coalition are working to reduce underage drinking through a comprehensive approach that includes individual and systems-level change; and

**WHEREAS**, 21 Reasons promotes a healthy environment by strengthening policies, law enforcement, and adult attitudes to reduce the availability of alcohol to youth; and

**WHEREAS**, One Maine One Portland promotes healthy youth and families by increasing positive opportunities for involvement, education, and skill-building; and

**WHEREAS**, the Maine Youth Drug and Alcohol Use Survey (MYDAUS) has found a promising decline in underage drinking and other drug use among Portland teens during recent years, including a 19% decrease in 30-day alcohol use between 2004 and 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2008 MYDAUS also found a dramatic increase in the percentage of youth who report that alcohol is hard to get—especially among 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2008 Portland Parent Survey found that compared to just two years ago, significantly more parents are concerned about the harmful effects of underage alcohol use, and are taking concrete actions to prevent their own teens from drinking; 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, Jill C. Duson, Mayor of the City of Portland, Maine and the members of the Portland City Council, do hereby declare the month of April, 2009 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.