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CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

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RESOLUTION DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2008
“YOUTH ALCOHOL PREVENTION MONTH”
IN THE CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE

WHEREAS, youth substance abuse in Portland is a problem with devastating consequences for youth, their families, and the City as a whole; and

WHEREAS, alcohol is involved in 80-90% of all other teen substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, children who consume alcohol before age 15 are five times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who abstain from alcohol until they are 21; and

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

WHEREAS, the 2006 Maine Youth Drug and Alcohol Use Survey (MYDAUS) found that one out of five Portland 8th graders and half of Portland’s juniors and seniors reported using alcohol during the last 30 days; and

WHEREAS, in the 2006 MYDAUS more than half of Portland youth in grades 6-12 reported that alcohol is “easy” or “very easy” for kids their age to obtain; and

WHEREAS, the 21 Reasons Coalition is working to promote a healthy community environment by eliminating youth access to alcohol; strengthening community norms, especially adult attitudes, to support alcohol-free expectations for youth; and strengthening enforcement of underage drinking, furnishing, and hosting laws; and

WHEREAS, the 21 Reasons Coalition and the City of Portland Public Health Division’s Substance Abuse Prevention Program came together to develop a Liquor Licensing Brochure insert, the first of its kind in the State of Maine, to be distributed to every Liquor Licensing applicant and every existing licensee, to ensure that all purveyors of liquor are informed of the State of Maine’s Liquor Laws, Rules & Regulations, and the industry’s best practices; and

WHEREAS, the 21 Reasons Coalition and the Portland Downtown District’s Night Life Oversight Committee came together to develop Responsible Bar Management Guidelines, the first of its kind in the State of Maine, which highlights the State of Maine Liquor Laws, Rules and Regulations, and the industry’s best practices in order to sustain a safe atmosphere in Portland’s nightlife community;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council declares the month of April Youth Alcohol Prevention Month; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby pledges support for the ongoing efforts of the 21 Reasons Coalition to reduce youth substance abuse in Portland.