



PROCLAMATION

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

NATIONAL DRUNK AND DRUGGED DRIVING (3D) PREVENTION MONTH DECEMBER 2008

- WHEREAS:** In 2007, 41,059 people died in traffic accidents on our nation's highways. Of these 12,998 were alcohol-related. These deaths constitute 32% of the total traffic fatalities; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2007, 1,993 Driving Under the Influence (DUI) arrests were made in Monmouth County and 1,606 Monmouth County residents participated in the county's Intoxicated Driver Resource Center program, and
- WHEREAS:** Seventy-one percent of fatal crashes involving impaired drivers took place during the 12 hours between 3:00p.m. and 3:00 a.m. In 2007, 59% of all fatal crashes involving impaired drivers occurred on weekdays, compared to 40% on the weekends; and
- WHEREAS:** Ninety-seven percent of the general drinking-age public see drinking and driving as a threat to their personal safety and 66% feel it is extremely important to reduce the problem; and
- WHEREAS:** Traffic accidents are the number one killer of teens. In 2007, 10% of drivers with a blood alcohol level of .08 or above involved in fatal crashes were between 16 and 20 years old, and
- WHEREAS:** Americans face a 40% chance of being killed or injured by an impaired driver during their lifetime. During the month of December 54% of all fatal accidents involving an impaired driver take place on New Years and 45% take place on Christmas; now
- THEREFORE:** I, Mayor Gerard P. Scharfenberger, and the Middletown Township Committee do hereby join the Middletown Municipal Alliance to Prevent Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in proclaiming December 2008, as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Month. We call upon all citizens, government agencies, business leaders, hospitals, schools, and public and private institutions to make a conscious effort to ensure a safe and healthy holiday season for everyone by not driving impaired, by being a responsible party host, and by intervening when someone you know attempts to get behind the wheel after drinking or taking drugs.

Mayor Gerard P. Scharfenberger, Ph.D.