



# PROCLAMATION

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

### ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH APRIL 2009

**WHEREAS:** Alcohol is a primary factor in the four leading causes of death for young persons ages 10-21; and

**WHEREAS:** Almost 6,500 persons ages 10-21 die each year: almost 2,400 in drinking and driving crashes, almost 2,400 die from other accidents, falls, fires etc., 1,500 die in alcohol-related homicides and 300 due to suicide and

**WHEREAS:** Approximately 9.7 million current drinkers in the United States are between the ages of 12-20; and

**WHEREAS:** Adolescents use alcohol more than tobacco or illicit drugs; and

**WHEREAS:** Young people begin drinking, on average, at 13.1 years of age. Young people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who begin drinking at age 21; and

**WHEREAS:** Alcohol abuse is linked to as many as two-thirds of all sexual assaults and date rapes of teens and college students. Alcohol abuse is also a major factor in unprotected sex among youth, increasing their risk of contracting HIV or other transmitted diseases; and

**WHEREAS:** 13 percent of all youth, ages 12-17, had at least one serious problem related to drinking in the past year; now

**THEREFORE:** I, Mayor Pamela M. Brightbill, and the Middletown Township Committee in conjunction with the Middletown Alliance to Prevent Alcoholism and Drug Abuse do hereby proclaim that April 2009 is Alcohol Awareness Month in the Township of Middletown. We call upon all citizens, parents, governmental agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, hospitals, schools and colleges in the Township of Middletown to support efforts that will increase community awareness, understanding and action to address underage drinking in our community and join us in "Saving Lives: Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking".

Mayor Pamela M. Brightbill