

**PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING
APRIL AS ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH**

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

WHEREAS, almost 100,000 persons die each year from alcohol-related causes: drinking and driving crashes, other accidents, falls, fires, alcohol-related homicides and suicides; and

WHEREAS, approximately 15 million current drinkers in the United States are dependent on alcohol; 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; and

WHEREAS, 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 is involved in fifty percent of criminal assault, traffic, theft, fraud, vandalism, and sex crime cases in the juvenile justice system. Older friends and siblings are the primary source by which underage youth obtain alcohol. Providing alcohol to minors is against the law, and that together we should work to keep it out of their hands; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that we join with others in advancing efforts to strengthen the enforcement of our underage drinking laws, and build partnerships among local agencies, elected officials, law enforcement, businesses, schools, and communities to prevent underage drinking and alcoholism.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Washington, County of Warren joins the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD) and the New Jersey Division of Alcohol Beverage Control and do hereby proclaim that April 2012 is Alcohol Awareness Month in The Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey.

Dated this 17th day of April, 2012


Michael A. Kovacs, Mayor