

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** *alcohol is a primary factor in the four leading causes of death for young person's 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; 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 abuse is linked to as many as two-thirds of all sexual assaults and date rapes of teens and college students; and*
- WHEREAS,** *alcohol abuse is a major factor in unprotected sex among youth, increasing their risk of contracting HIV or other transmitted diseases; and*
- WHEREAS,** *the typical American young person will see 100,000 beer commercials before he or she turns 18 (that is more than for sneakers, gun and jeans combined); 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, Jim Doody, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of Grand Junction, do hereby proclaim April 2008, as

"ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH"

in the City of Grand Junction, and do urge all citizens to support efforts that will increase community awareness, understand and action to address underage drinking in our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official Seal of the City of Grand Junction this 5th day of May, 2008.

Mayor