

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, alcohol is the most commonly used addictive substance in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, alcohol is a primary factor in the four leading causes of death for youth ages 10-21; 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, the recent Georgia Student Health Survey for Decatur indicated that 31% of high school-aged youth reported drinking alcohol in the last 30 days; and,

WHEREAS, youth who drink are more likely to be victims of violent crime, to be involved in alcohol-related traffic crashes and to have serious school-related problems; and,

WHEREAS, a supportive family environment is associated with lowered rates of alcohol use for adolescents; and,

WHEREAS, consistent and sustained parental attitudes can influence a child's decision about whether or not to use alcohol and drugs; and,

WHEREAS, youth who have conversations with their parents and learn a lot about the dangers of alcohol and drugs use are 50% less likely to use alcohol and drugs than those who don't have such conversations; and,

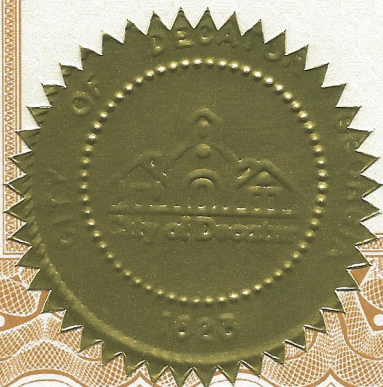
WHEREAS, the Decatur Prevention Initiative and the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence desire to help families address this serious concern in the community.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mayor Patricia M. Garrett, Mayor of the City of Decatur, the "City of Homes, Schools and Places of Worship," do hereby proclaim April 2016 as:

ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

And, I do hereby urge all citizens and organization of this community to join me in supporting efforts that will help families address this very serious concern in our community.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and cause the Seal of Decatur to be affixed to this 4th day of April 2016.



Patricia M. Garrett
Mayor