



Proclamation

APRIL 2018 IS SOCIAL HOST RESPONSIBILITY MONTH

Underage drinking is a national public health issue with serious implications. Although we have done much work and made progress here in northern Michigan to address this pervasive problem, there is still much more we can do. According to a study by the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, an estimated 10 million people younger than the age of 21 drank alcohol in the past month in the United States.

WHERE AS, underage drinking is a problem that affects our community, our health, and our future. It exacts a terrible toll on individuals and families, and places a costly tax burden on the community at large for law enforcement, medical services, and other social services involved in the prevention and treatment of underage drinking, and

WHERE AS, underage drinking has severe consequences, many of which parents and caregivers may not be fully aware. Consequences of underage drinking may include injury or death from accidents; unintended, unwanted, and unprotected sexual activity; academic problems; and drug use; and

WHERE AS, parents and caregivers have a significant influence on young people's decisions about alcohol consumption, especially when they create supportive and nurturing alcohol-free environments; and

WHERE AS, youth who start drinking before the age of 15 are five times more likely to develop alcohol dependence or abuse later in life than those who begin drinking at or after age 21; and

WHERE AS, alcohol use by young people is dangerous, not only because of the risks associated with acute impairment, but also because of the grave threat to their long-term development and well-being; and

WHERE AS, parents, educators, and community leaders who work with our young people every day are our best advocates for responsible decision-making; and

WHERE AS, one-hundred percent of any alcohol consumed by a minor came from an adult. At one time, an adult over the age of 21 was in control of the alcohol and a minor gained access to it, and

WHERE AS, it is illegal for adults to knowingly allow their child's friends to drink alcohol in their home, even with the permission of the friends' parents, and adults have the authority and should have the responsibility to take steps to reduce the likelihood that their homes will become venues for underage drinking, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, Gerrish Township (organization) of the County of Roscommon Community Committed to UNDERAGE DRINKING PREVENTION, do hereby proclaim that April 2018 is Social Host Responsibility Month. We also call upon all parents, citizens, homeowners and property owners to host gatherings responsibly and take measures to eliminate access of alcohol to persons under the age of 21.

Dated this 13 day of March, 2018

County of Roscommon

Authorized Official Signature Kathleen Patchin

(Print name): Kathleen Patchin

(Print title): Clerk