

ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION
April 2017

WHEREAS, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc., (NCADD) established Alcohol Awareness Month in 1987 to help reduce the stigma associated with alcoholism by encouraging communities to reach out to the American public each April with information about alcohol, alcoholism and recovery.

WHEREAS, across our nation, alcohol abuse is a major public health problem that affects Americans from all communities and of all ages, races, and ethnic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, alcohol kills more children than all illegal drugs combined; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization defines alcohol as a Group 1 carcinogen and is the third leading preventable cause of cancer; and

WHEREAS, underage drinking alone costs the citizens of North Carolina \$1.5 billion in medical care, work loss, and pain and suffering associated with the multiple problems resulting from the use of alcohol by youth; and

WHEREAS, parents and caregivers as well everyone in the community have significant influence on young people's decisions about alcohol consumption, especially when they create supportive and nurturing alcohol-free environments; and

WHEREAS, parents can have a significant impact on their children's decision not to drink alcohol by creating clear family guidelines that set a *no alcohol* rule and by monitoring and securing alcohol in their home; and

WHEREAS, underage drinkers consume nearly 10% of all alcohol sold in North Carolina, totaling \$526 million in sales; and

WHEREAS, alcoholic beverages sold in convenience and grocery stores are more dangerous than ever containing a high alcohol content, sugar, and flavorings that make them attractive and palate-friendly to youth; and

WHEREAS, 36% of twelfth graders in Alamance County report having at least one drink of alcohol in the past 30 days; and

WHEREAS, one out of two high school students in Alamance County says it is easy to get alcohol; and

WHEREAS, the Alamance County Youth Advisory Council and Alamance Citizens for a Drug Free Community are working to raise awareness and to mobilize efforts within our community to implement strategies that prevent alcohol abuse and dependency by decreasing underage access to alcohol, changing community norms that promote underage and excessive alcohol consumption, and address policies pertaining to underage and excessive drinking; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Elon Mayor and Board of Aldermen do hereby proclaim April 2017 as "ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH" in Elon, North Carolina and commend this observance to all citizens.

Proclaimed this the 11th day of April 2017


_____, Mayor
Town of Elon