

# Office of the Mayor

CITY OF NEW YORK



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS:** EVERY YEAR, 40,000 BABIES ARE BORN WITH FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME, A RANGE OF DISORDERS RESULTING FROM PRENATAL EXPOSURE TO ALCOHOL. AS MANY AS ONE OUT OF EVERY 100 INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNITED STATES MAY BE AFFECTED BY FASD, IN WHICH PERMANENT BRAIN DAMAGE AS A RESULT OF IN-UTERO EXPOSURE TO ALCOHOL LEADS TO DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS, LEARNING DISABILITIES, AND PHYSICAL BIRTH DEFECTS. IN FACT, ALCOHOL USE IS THE LEADING KNOWN PREVENTABLE CAUSE OF MENTAL AND PHYSICAL BIRTH DEFECTS IN THE UNITED STATES. YET MANY WOMEN, UNAWARE OF THE IRREPARABLE HARM THEY ARE INFLICTING UPON THEIR BABIES, CONTINUE TO DRINK DURING PREGNANCY.

**WHEREAS:** EVEN PEOPLE WITH Milder cases of FASD are at high risk of learning disabilities, mental illness, and serious social disorders that can disrupt an otherwise healthy life. But FASD can be completely prevented when mothers abstain from drinking during pregnancy. Education and awareness are the most important tools at our disposal in combating FASD, and it is imperative that we do all we can to make the risks of drinking during pregnancy known. Alongside other exemplary organizations dedicated to raising public awareness of FASD, the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Support Network of New York City and Long Island has undertaken enormous efforts to educate physicians, social workers, and college and high school students about the dangers of drinking during pregnancy.

**WHEREAS:** IN ORDER TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF THE EFFECTS OF PRENATAL EXPOSURE TO ALCOHOL, TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING AND PROVIDE SERVICES FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY FASD, AND TO ENSURE HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES, WE TAKE THIS DAY TO REMIND WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD OF THE IMPORTANCE OF ABSTAINING FROM ALCOHOL USE DURING THE DURATION OF PREGNANCY. NEW YORK CITY IS PROUD TO BE A LEADER IN NATIONWIDE EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF FASD AND ENSURE A BRIGHTER, HEALTHIER FUTURE FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

NOW THEREFORE I, MAYOR MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2007 IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK TO BE:

**"INTERNATIONAL FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY"**



IN WITNESS WHEREOF I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK TO BE AFFIXED.

*Michael R. Bloomberg*  
MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG  
MAYOR