



May 20, 2009

For Immediate Release

FMI: Jo Morrissey, Assistant Project Director

21 Reasons

175 Lancaster Street, Suite 220A

Portland, ME 04101

773-7737

jmorrissey@mcd.org www.21reasons.org

Underage Drinking Prevention & Law Enforcement

Cumberland County, ME—Wow, times have changed, and the Westbrook Police Department's release of their underage drinking enforcement details underscores one of the many reasons why times are changing. Our community members, including law enforcement, parents, youth and businesses, are doing more now than ever to help kids remain alcohol free.

The results show it. Times *have* changed. Statewide, and in Cumberland County, teen drinking rates have followed a downward trend in the past few years.

In Portland for example, the percentage of youth who report recent alcohol use (at least once within the past 30 days) has dropped significantly--from 37% in 2000 and 36% in 2004, to 29% in 2008 (Maine Youth Drug and Alcohol Use Survey). In addition, according to a phone survey conducted by 21 Reasons, more Portland parents are concerned about underage drinking and taking concrete steps to prevent it—including talking with their teens about alcohol, asking if alcohol will be at parties, and calling party hosts to make sure alcohol will not be provided.

There is clear evidence that shows youth drink less when they feel they will be caught by the police and/or their parents. Youth are also less likely to drink when other adults in their life think it is wrong.

“There are things every member of our community can do to stop underage and high risk drinking. These include limiting access to alcohol and enforcing the rules,” says Jo Morrissey, Assistant Project Director of 21 Reasons, a project of Medical Care Development, Inc., who helped to fund Westbrook's enforcement details.

“We are seeing a culture change, an underlying shift in the perception that underage drinking is not just a rite of passage. In fact, according to the MYDAUS, most high school students in the state of Maine actually don't drink. The more parents, police, and the whole community do to prevent underage drinking, the more youth will not drink. We all have a role to play.

For more information on what you can do to prevent underage drinking, visit the following websites: www.21reasons.org, or Maine Office of Substance Abuse's www.maineparents.net.

--more--

Westbrook Police Conduct Underage Drinking Enforcement Detail and Net Variety of Charges

On 06-24-2009, Westbrook Police utilized funding from Medical Care Development, Inc and the Cumberland County Underage Drinking Enforcement Task Force to patrol the streets of Westbrook in an attempt to thwart the use, possession and acquisition of alcohol by minors. These officers, some in plainclothes and others in uniform, netted a variety of charges.

Aric Cody age 19 of Westbrook was arrested charged with illegal possession of alcohol by a minor, violation of conditions of release, carrying a concealed weapon (knife), refusing to submit to an arrest or detention, criminal mischief and three outstanding warrants. Cody was originally identified as being under the influence of alcohol and initially fled during contact with police, but was subsequently captured.

Fernando Riston age 20 from McKenzie, Tennessee was summonsed for possession of alcohol by a minor and Nicholas Morse, age 22 of Asheville, North Carolina was summonsed for providing alcohol to a minor (that minor being Riston). Morse was observed by plainclothes officers providing a bottle of vodka to Riston in the parking lot at Shaw's Supermarket.

David Stuart of Gorham, age 34, was stopped by detail officers and a loaded pistol was recovered in his vehicle. He was arrested and charged with carrying a concealed weapon (firearm).

A detail officer was monitoring activity at a convenience store in Westbrook when he observed subjects smoking marijuana in a vehicle. Kevin Golder of Buxton, age 47, was arrested and charged with Possession of schedule Z drugs, aggravated trafficking in Schedule Z drugs and summonsed for possession of a usable amount of marijuana. The possession of the drugs occurred in close proximity to Sacarrappa Park, a posted Drug-Free zone. Golder's companion, Tammie Garland of Portland, age 49, was summonsed for possession of a usable amount of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

These details will continue throughout the summer.

For more information, contact Capt. Tom Roth 854-0644 x406

###