Whereas, the Washington County Prevention Coalition and the Washington County Youth Coalition have designated the upcoming school year as an Alcohol-Free Year for Youth sponsored by REACH4HOPE and Southwest Prevention, a school year to set clear rules and expectations about NO underage drinking;

Whereas, alcohol used by those under the age of 21 negatively affects their health and safety, and thus the safety and well-being of all those living and working in the Communities of Washington County; and

Whereas, teens who use alcohol often progress to addictive behavior later in life, are at a much higher risk for developing mental illnesses as adults; and

Whereas, addictive behaviors and mental illnesses also greatly increase the risk of suicide; and

Whereas, underage drinking is a major public health problem that negatively impacts the brain development of our young people, causing a higher probability of early alcohol addiction, alcohol-related traffic accidents, and brain impairment; and

Whereas, under the Law, it is illegal for a minor to purchase, possess, or consume any alcoholic beverage, and it is illegal and punishable for anyone to sell, offer to sell, or furnish alcohol to a minor; and

Whereas, the Mayors of St. George City, Washington City, Hurricane City, Hildale City, Ivins City and Santa Clara City, in addition to the Commissioners of Washington County and the State of Utah are committed to the development of a major statewide public information campaign with the overall objectives of changing social norms regarding depression, suicide ideation, underage drinking, and risky behaviors; and

Whereas, we commend the overwhelming majority of our young people who are drug and alcohol-free, and we desire all of our youth to be drug and alcohol-free so as to develop in a healthy society; and

Now, therefore, We, as Mayors and Commissioners hereby proclaim our support and offer an invitation to the entire community to help encourage family bonding and reduce underage drinking in order to improve the health and safety of all youth and adults in Washington County. We invite all members of our community, including individuals, families, governments, schools, religious and civic organizations, to participate in and sponsor activities that will heighten awareness regarding the dangers of underage drinking to young people's health and safety, and will strengthen their ability and desire to refuse to drink alcohol; and

Whereas, we declare the 2023-2024 school year as an Alcohol-Free School Year for Youth to bring awareness to risky behaviors and underage drinking, and promote the bringing of families together.

Proclaimed this 1st Day of September 2023

_____	_____
Michele Randall – St. George City Mayor	Kress Staheli – Washington City Mayor
_____	_____
Rick Rosenberg – Santa Clara City Mayor	Chris Hart – Ivins City Mayor
_____	_____
Nanette Billings – Hurricane City Mayor	Donia Jessop – Hildale City Mayor
_____	_____
Victor Iverson – County Commissioner	Gil Almquist – County Commissioner
_____	_____
Adam Snow – County Commissioner	Nicolle Felshaw – County Administrator