The prom should be a positive and memorable experience for our children. Decisions about dresses, tuxedos and limousines seem to be of the utmost importance. However, the choices made during and after the prom determine whether the experience will be a positive one. It is critical that we provide our children with information about the effects of alcohol and other drugs so they are better prepared to make the right choices.

For students, we hope this pamphlet will help guide you to a safe, fun and memorable evening.

For parents, we hope this pamphlet will help you initiate a positive, and productive discussion with your son or daughter. How can you enter into a prom safety pledge with your child? A sample pledge form is found on the inside of this brochure.

I hope you find this information useful. Have a safe and enjoyable prom season!

Maggie Brooks
County Executive
Teen Drinking Facts
• Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for 15-20 year olds.*

• Twenty-eight percent (28%) of 15-20 year old drivers who were killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2005 had been drinking.*

• In 2005, 74% of the young drivers who had been drinking and were killed in crashes were not wearing a safety belt.*

*Source: National Highway Traffic Administration

Prom Facts
• A night driver’s license is required for those who drive to the prom.

• Students are not permitted to enter the prom if they are under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

• If a student leaves the prom, schools generally do not allow them to be re-admitted.

• Most hotels increase security on prom night and will contact local police for any misconduct, including consumption of alcohol or other drugs.

Tips for Parents
• Discuss your son’s or daughter’s plans for the evening and set a curfew.

• If you have a party, make sure no alcohol or other drugs are permitted.

• Discuss plans for dealing with peer pressure to drink or use other drugs.

• Know who will be driving and remind your child to buckle up.

• In the unfortunate event that your child feels unsafe or uncomfortable, encourage them to call you—no questions asked.

• Communicate with other parents about prom plans.

• If your son or daughter plans to hire a limousine, have a conversation with the company regarding policies on alcohol and other drugs in the vehicle.

• Speak to the limousine driver, so you can feel more comfortable about your child’s safety.

As a student:
I recognize that there are many decisions I face every day. I commit to you that I will do everything in my power to avoid making those that will jeopardize my health, my safety and overall well-being, or your trust in me.

By signing below, I pledge to remain free from alcohol and other drugs, never drive under the influence or ride with an impaired driver, and I agree that I will always wear a seat belt.

I agree to call you if I am ever in a situation that threatens my safety or makes me uncomfortable.

Signature   Date

As a parent:
I am committed to you and to your health and safety. By signing below, I pledge to provide you transportation home if you are ever in a situation that threatens your safety. I will also defer discussions about that situation until a time when we can both talk in a calm and caring manner.

Signature   Date