

# CITY OF ASHEVILLE

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS, Healthy children are the most important resource in the City of Asheville, North Carolina, and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASDs) pose a serious threat to the potential health of our future generations; and**

**WHEREAS, prenatal exposure to alcohol can cause birth defects, mental retardation, learning disabilities, attention deficits, and behavior disorders; and**

**WHEREAS, individuals with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders often have secondary disabilities, such as trouble with the law, substance abuse issues, disrupted school experiences, employment problems, and homelessness; and**

**WHEREAS, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders are entirely preventable if a woman does not drink alcohol during her pregnancy; and**

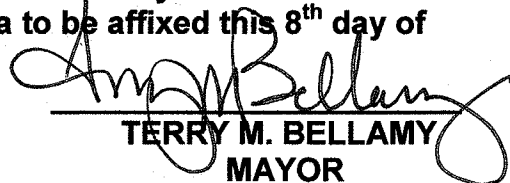
**WHEREAS, people around the world began observing International FAS Awareness Day on September 9 each year, in order that on the ninth day of the ninth month of the year, the world would remember that during the nine months of pregnancy a woman should abstain from alcohol;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, TERRY M. BELLAMY, Mayor of the City of Asheville, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2009 as**

## **FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY**

**In Asheville and call upon all citizens to recognize the dangerous effects of fetal alcohol syndrome and express my appreciation for the work of Mission Hospitals to raise awareness about this important issue.**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Asheville, North Carolina to be affixed this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 2009.**

  
**TERRY M. BELLAMY  
MAYOR**

