

# Proclamation

## Real Life. Real Talk.® Month

March, 2007

**Whereas:** *We live in a society where open, honest communication about sex and health is limited, making our youth especially vulnerable to the daily bombardment of sexual imagery, idealized body images, and inaccurate portrayals of sexual risks and relationships in entertainment and news media, advertising, and on the Internet; and*

**Whereas:** *Research with Portland parents told us that they struggle with how to manage this deluge and help their kids become sexually healthy as they navigate their adolescence and emerge into young adulthood; and*

**Whereas:** *Real Life. Real Talk.® is based upon 15 years of secondary research on what the Institute of Medicine called a “sexual code of silence” and reinforces the recommendations of former Surgeon General David Satcher who said that in order to create a more healthy America, we must— “initiate a mature national dialogue on issues of sexuality, sexual health, and responsible sexual behavior”; and*

**Whereas:** *Real Life. Real Talk.® is a social change effort to encourage healthy dialogue among parents, teens, families, and communities about sexuality, love, and relationships—and—a community collaboration consisting of a diverse group of organizations and individuals (The Real Life. Real Talk.® Coalition) that has come together to support parents as they strive to raise sexually healthy kids in today’s sex-saturated culture; and*

**Whereas:** *Our city—Portland, Maine—was chosen as one of only three national test sites for this groundbreaking work, based on our high social capital, support for sexuality education in the schools, and our progressive spirit.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT I,** Nicholas Mavadones, Jr., Mayor of the City of Portland, Maine and the members of the Portland City Council do hereby proclaim **March, 2007** as **Real Life. Real Talk.® Month** within the City of Portland and support and encourage all our citizens to engage in open, honest, and balanced community and family dialogue about sexual health and relationships to create positive change for our culture.

**Signed and sealed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2007**

**Nicholas Mavadones, Jr., Mayor  
City of Portland, Maine**