

August 18 ,2015

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

Dr. Sharon Harris

516-676-2008

safeglencove@yahoo.com

**SAFE HONORED FOR KEEPING GLEN COVE SAFE**

On April 28th, Glen Cove Patch featured an article recognizing Glen Cove as one of the safest cities in America. Safewise, a community-focused security organization that researches community safety, placed Glen Cove in the top 100 because: "Relatively diverse, Glen Cove takes the health and safety of its residents seriously. Glen Cove supports "S.A.F.E." (Substance Abuse Free Environment), a community organization that works with other nonprofits, city government, and local businesses to eliminate alcohol and substance abuse."

Using 2013 crime data, Glen Cove was ranked number 76. With a population of 27,134, Glen Cove received these rankings based on low statistics of violent crimes and property crimes per 1,000 people. 0.62% of Violent Crimes per 1,000 and 5.41% of Property Crimes per 1,000 were yielded.

At the July 28<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting, SAFE, Inc was honored by the Mayor & City Council for this national recognition. Accepting the citation on behalf SAFE, Board Chair and Coalition Strategic Planner, Georgie Connett stated "it is greatly rewarding to be acknowledged by the Safewise organization and the Mayor and City Council who are tremendously supportive of SAFE and its mission".

Substance Abuse Free Environment (SAFE, Inc.) formed a community based Coalition in 2003 to change societal norms about alcohol and substance abuse and to address the risk factors that contribute to them. The Coalition is overseen by SAFE's Board of Directors and Co-Chaired by SAFE Executive Director, Dr. Sharon Harris and City Councilman Tony Gallo. It is composed of twelve sectors of the community: Youth (an individual 18 or under), Parents/Youth Caregivers, Business Community, Media, School, Youth-serving Organization, Law Enforcement, Religious Organizations, Civic Organizations, Healthcare Professionals, and Local Agencies with Expertise in the Field of Substance Abuse and associated issues.

For the last twelve years, the Coalition has dedicated itself to its mission of eliminating alcohol and substance abuse through strategic planning using local prevention needs assessment data. Coalition members were in attendance and represent a cross section of the Glen Cove Community. Members actively participate on one of four established Coalition Committees, each with its own charge. The Community Committee, Chaired by Councilman Anthony Gallo,

serves as a think tank to examine needs assessment data and make recommendations regarding underage binge drinking, enforcement of underage drinking laws and social host laws.

The School Committee, Chaired by Denise Kiernan, Director of Health and Physical Education for the Glen Cove School District, utilize prevention needs assessment data to identify and provide Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs (ATOD) prevention activities, and programs for youth.

The Parent Committee, Chaired by Laurent Caballero, acts as a bi-lingual parent resource for prevention, education, intervention, and research on alcohol and drug abuse.

The Youth Committee, Co-Chaired by Arlene O'Dell, Executive Director of the Glen Cove Youth Bureau and Melissa Rhodes, Executive Director of the Glen Cove Boys and Girls Club utilize needs assessment data to identify and provide prevention activities and programs for youth and participate in all planning activities regarding youth that help to reduce youth drug and alcohol use.

For more information about the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition or other SAFE initiatives contact SAFE at: 516-676-2008 or visit the website at <http://www.safeglencove.org> or Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition>.