EXHIBIT I: EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL

Alcohol consumption causes a number of marked changes in behavior. Even low doses significantly impair the judgment and coordination required to drive safely, increasing the likelihood that the driver will be involved in an accident. Low to moderate doses of alcohol also increase the incidence of a variety of aggressive acts, including peer, spouse, and child abuse. Moderate to high doses of alcohol cause marked impairments in higher mental functions, severely altering a person’s ability to learn and remember information. Very high doses cause respiratory depression and death. If combined with other depressants of the central nervous system, much lower doses of alcohol will produce the effects just described.

Repeated use of alcohol can lead to dependence. Sudden cessation of alcohol intake is likely to produce withdrawal symptoms, including severe anxiety, tremors, hallucination, and convulsions. Alcohol withdrawal can be life-threatening. Long-term consumption of large quantities of alcohol, particularly when combined with poor nutrition, can also lead to permanent damage to vital organs such as the brain and the liver.

Mothers who drink alcohol during pregnancy may give birth to infants with fetal alcohol syndrome. These infants have irreversible physical abnormalities and mental retardation. Research also indicates that children of alcoholic parents are at greater risk than other children of becoming alcoholics.

In addition to the primary effects of alcohol upon the individual consumer, other people and the community at large can suffer various secondary effects resulting from an individual’s consumption of alcohol. These secondary harms include, among others, traffic crashes and fatalities, personal injury and death due to other alcohol-related causes, property damage and vandalism, legal costs, social and economic costs, and damage to the image of the community and institutions.