City of Bethel Proclamation
Brain Injury Awareness Month

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) describes a traumatic brain injury (TBI) as a disruption in the normal function of the brain that can be caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or penetrating head injury;

WHEREAS, damage to the brain can result from falls, motor vehicle or sport accidents, stroke, assault, or other trauma;

WHEREAS, according to the Alaska Brain Injury Network:
- Alaska has one of the highest rates of traumatic brain injury (TBI) in the nation
- There are an estimated 10,000 Alaskan’s living with disability due to brain injury
- Each year 800 Alaskans are hospitalized due to a brain injury. This is more hospitalizations than new diagnoses of brain and lung cancer combined
- 150 Alaskans die due to brain injury each year
- An estimated 38% of hospitalizations from brain injury result in permanent disability
- An estimated 247 Alaskans become permanently disabled due to TBI each year
- Alaska is among a small number of states that lack a TBI rehabilitation program

WHEREAS, the Alaska Native rate for TBI is nearly twice that of the 2014 national population;

WHEREAS, between the years 2012 and 2016, there were 18,363 injuries reported in the Alaska Trauma Registry, with 3,573 (19.2%) involving brain injury

WHEREAS, early and adequate intervention, and especially cognitive rehabilitation, will greatly increase the quality of life of individuals with brain injury and enable them to return to home, school, work, or their communities;

WHEREAS, March has been designated as National Brain Injury Awareness Month to address the, consequences, causes, treatments, and prevention of acquired brain injuries;

NOW, THEREFORE, The Bethel City Council does hereby proclaim the month of March 2022 as Brain Injury Awareness Month in the City of Bethel.

Signed this 8th day of March, 2022

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Mark Springer, Mayor

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Lori Strickler, City Clerk