

PROCLAMATION

PROCLAIMING NOVEMBER AS SUICIDE AWARENESS/PREVENTION MONTH

Whereas, suicide is one of the most disruptive and tragic events a family and a community can experience, and is occurring at a national rate of over 5,000 suicides annually; and

Whereas, suicide is the "fastest growing killer of youth today"; and

Whereas, Alaska is one of the leading states for youth suicides with at least one youth suicide every week. Suicide kills youth 3 to 6 times more than homicide. Research shows that 95% of all youth suicides are preventable; and

Whereas, the issues of suicide and how to prevent it is of extreme importance and must be recognized as an immediate need for awareness and prevention; and

Whereas, statistics show that awareness, education and action do save lives, heightened community awareness will encourage communities to develop strategies to prevent youth suicides. The City of Bethel is pleased to be at the forefront in leading these worthwhile efforts; and

Whereas, the Yellow Ribbon is rapidly becoming recognized internationally as the symbol for awareness and prevention of suicide. It is recognized and used by suicide prevention groups, crisis centers, schools, churches, youth centers/hospitals, counselors, teachers, parents and youth themselves;

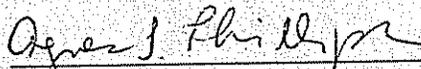
Now, therefore, I, Agnes L. Phillips, Mayor of the City of Bethel, Alaska, do hereby proclaim the month of November 1999 as the

"YUKON KUSKOKWIM DELTA SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH"

and encourage all citizens to work to prevent suicide, wear a yellow ribbon and to raise awareness and tolerance around all people affected by this tragedy.

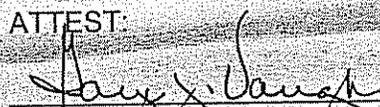
In witness hereof, I hereby set my hand this 26th day of October, 1999.

City of Bethel



Agnes L. Phillips, Mayor

ATTEST:



Gaye J. Vaughan, City Clerk

