



## *City of Bethel Proclamation*

### ***Recognizing The Accomplishments Of The First Ever Alaskan-Based Dental Therapy Program And The Original Class of Alaskan-trained Graduates***

**WHEREAS**, Alaskans living in rural communities often experience dental care at disproportionately high rates due to lack of access to oral health services,

**WHEREAS**, Tribal leaders partnered with the University of Washington DENTEX program, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and Yuut Elitnaurviat to develop the State and the Nation's first-ever Alaskan-based Dental Health Aide Therapy (DHAT) Program,

**WHEREAS**, the DHAT Program began training Alaska Native dental health professionals for the first time in the State of Alaska in January 2007,

**WHEREAS**, Alaskan students participate in two years of rigorous curriculum, covering hands-on training, fluoride treatment, oral hygiene and education, preventive and clinical methods to improve the oral health care within rural communities,

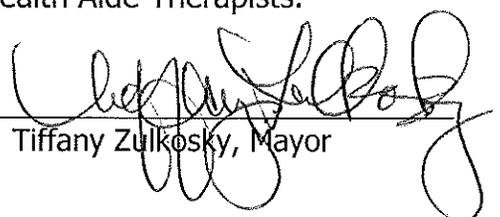
**WHEREAS**, graduates of the program will live and work in the rural communities providing care under the supervision of off-sight dentists to combat ongoing dental health issues in remote and isolated communities,

**WHEREAS**, establishing this new dental health professional will extend the abilities of our healthcare provider, to insure an improved state of health for rural Alaskans, the need of this program is apparent and the success of this program is inevitable,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, The City of Bethel, City Council does hereby recognize the valued contributions in expanding access to health care and improving the oral health, future and well being of the citizens in our communities. We also recognize the hard work and commitment of the original class of Alaskan-trained Dental Health Aide Therapists.

Signed this 16th day of December, 2008.

  
Lori Strickler, City Clerk

  
Tiffany Zulkosky, Mayor