

# Proclamation

## AIDS Awareness Week November 26 - December 2, 1995

**Whereas**, the global spread of the HIV infection and AIDS necessitates a worldwide effort to increase communications, education, and preventive action to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS; and,

**Whereas**, the World Health Organization has designated December 1, of each year as World AIDS Day, a day to expand and strengthen the worldwide effort to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS; and,

**Whereas**, the World Health Organization now estimates that 20 million people will be infected with HIV by the year 2000 and that AIDS has become the leading cause of death among all Americans 25-44 years old; and,

**Whereas**, the American Association for World Health is encouraging a better understanding of the challenge of HIV/AIDS nationally as it recognizes that the number of people diagnosed with the challenge of HIV and AIDS in the United State continues to increase, with an estimated 1 in 250 Americans currently HIV positive and over 440,000 AIDS cases reported (as of January 1, 1995); and,

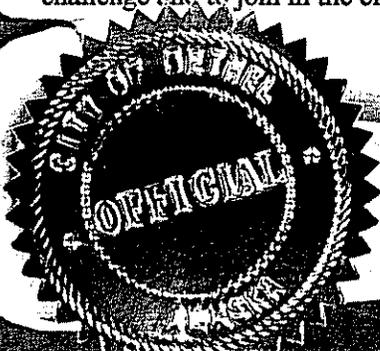
**Whereas**, there are Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta residents infected with HIV; men and women, village and Bethel, Native and Non-Native; and

**Whereas**, World AIDS Day provides an opportunity to focus on HIV infection and AIDS, caring for people with HIV infection and AIDS, and learning about HIV/AIDS; and,

**Whereas**, the World AIDS Day 1995 theme, "Shared Rights, Shared Responsibilities" highlights the importance of equality and solidarity in the global response to HIV/AIDS and on how every person has a right to be able to avoid infection, the right to health care if sick with AIDS, and the right to be treated with dignity and without discrimination; and,

**Whereas**, the World AIDS Day 1995 theme focuses on individual responsibility for protecting themselves and others from infection, families and communities to be responsible for educating their members on AIDS prevention, and to care for those affected by HIV, and Governments to fulfill their duty to protect public health by implementing appropriate HIV prevention policies and to ensure that all citizens have equal access to care services.

**Now, therefore, I**, Ruth Richardson, Mayor of Bethel, Alaska, do hereby declare the week of November 26 to December 2, 1995, as AIDS Awareness Week and urge all citizens to take part in activities and observance planned by the Bethel AIDS Task Force to increase awareness and understanding of AIDS as a global challenge and to join in the effort to prevent the transmission of the AIDS virus.



*Ruth Richardson*  
Ruth Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:

*Connie Tucker*  
Connie Tucker, City Clerk