



## *City of Bethel Proclamation*

### **United Against Opiate Abuse and Heroin Week**

**WHEREAS**, worldwide, more than 15 million people consume illicit opiates 1 (opium, morphine and heroin), the large majority use heroin, the most lethal form;

**WHEREAS**, according to the National Center for Health Statistics in their March 2015 Data Brief release, there were 8,257 drug poisoning deaths involving heroin in 2013 this is a 37% increase per year since 2010;

**WHEREAS**, as with the national increase of heroin use and availability, Alaska has shown a significant increase in drug related charges and arrests over the past few years;

**WHEREAS**, as provided in the 2014 Alaska State Troopers, Annual Drug Report, the number of heroin related charges/arrests reported by the State of Alaska Troopers was 118 in 2011, 146 in 2012, 151 in 2013 and 209 in 2014 showing a 77% increase in the number of related charges/arrests over a period of four years;

**WHEREAS**, the Annual Drug Report also indicated, the use of heroin is no longer a problem for just the urban areas of Alaska, more and more rural communities are showing significant increases in illicit drug activity;

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska State Troopers reported six heroin related incidents that led to charges and/or arrests in 2013 and 2014 and as of April 17, 2015 there have been two;

**WHEREAS**, heroin use does not only affect the users, the costs associated with this drug extends past financial, families become broken as loved one struggle through the effects of this terrible addiction;

**WHEREAS**, there are people within this community that are reaping high financial benefits while our young people and families are ripped apart;

**WHEREAS**, it is time to come together as a community and region and stop this violent trend, let's get help to those who need it and provide strong prevention to those that don't;

**WHEREAS**, community members should know their resources, The Drug Enforcement Administration has a tip line to report drug crimes, 907-271-5033, the Bethel Police Department has a crime stoppers number, 543-STOP (543-7867), the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation has staff trained to help identify the needs of heroin users and their desires to stop their addictions, there is also Narcotics Anonymous support, call 866-258-6329;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the City of Bethel, City Council, does hereby proclaim April 27, through May 2, 2015 as United Against Opiate Abuse and Heroin Week.

**IN OFFICIAL RECOGNITION WHEREOF**, I hereby affix my signature on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015.

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Richard Robb, Mayor

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Lori Strickler, City Clerk