



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Alaska is home to more Indigenous people than any other state in the nation. Sadly, the number of Indigenous people who go missing each day in Alaska is disproportionately higher than with the rest of the nation, as is murder, being the third leading cause of death for American Indian's and Alaska Native's in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, there are currently 51 Alaska Native females and 250 Alaska Native males listed as missing on the Alaska Missing Person's Clearinghouse public list of missing persons. For our families, our communities, our Tribes and our state, these numbers are simply too high. This ongoing tragedy must stop, and so the Governor and the Alaska Department of Public Safety are developing new strategies to investigate these cases including providing specialized Officers; and

WHEREAS, following their lead and working together, the City of Valdez, the City of Valdez Police Department, The Valdez Native Tribe, AVV, and all the supporting agencies in Valdez establish this proclamation to recognize May 5th, as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day and proclaim that we continue to work together to provide solutions and will within the next six months, develop an "MMIP Response Plan", that will lay out a blueprint determining how, when someone goes missing from our community, a response from law enforcement and supporting agencies is carried out for the best possible outcome; and

WHEREAS, on this Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day, we will remember the Indigenous People who we have lost to murder and those who remain missing and commit to working together in order to respond swiftly and effectively. We will ask for a moment of silence in their memory; and

WHEREAS, we are all committed to addressing the underlying causes behind the numbers, who are after all not just numbers, but our loved ones. The many causes include domestic violence, sex trafficking, and substance use and addiction. Together we can bridge the gap for individuals and families in crisis, provide services, and support healing through holistic community driven methods; and

WHEREAS, we will seek funding for this collaboration and work together providing leadership and direction for cross-departmental and interagency work that focuses on prevention and response for missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives. Our commitment to this proclamation is strong and unwavering, as there has been too much sorrow and heartache that simply cannot continue. We are all invested in Valdez being a safe community for all people who visit and for those who call Valdez home.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Sharon Scheidt, Mayor of the City of Valdez, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2022 as:

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day

in Valdez and call upon all citizens, and ask all levels of government, to support Tribal governments and Tribal communities' efforts to increase awareness of, and response to, the issue of missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives through appropriate programs and activities.

Dated this 4th day of May, 2022.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

Sharon Scheidt, Mayor

ATTEST

Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk