



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Valdez joins a growing chorus of local, state, tribal, and national governments supporting the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People; and

WHEREAS, the disappearances and murders of Indigenous people is directly connected to domestic and other forms of violence, sexual assault, trafficking, and a history of childhood, intergenerational, and historic trauma; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Natives experience disproportionate rates of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other violent crimes, according to the Indian Law and Order Commission's 2013 report. Alaska Native women are overrepresented in the domestic violence victim population by 250 percent, Alaska Natives comprise 19 percent of the population in Alaska, but represent 47 percent of the reported rape victims in the State; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Indian Health Institute's (UIHI) 2018 report ranked Alaska as fourth among states and Anchorage as third among cities in the United States for having the highest number of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. In 2021 Alaska reported 229 cases of missing and murdered loved ones, 149 missing and 80 murdered; and

WHEREAS, for generations, Indigenous persons, including American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians, have been forced to mourn a missing or murdered loved one without the answers and support they deserve; and

WHEREAS, on Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day, we remember these victims and their families, and commit to working with Tribal Nations and Native communities to achieve justice and healing; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sharon Scheidt, Mayor of the City of Valdez, do hereby proclaim May 5th, 2023, as **Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day**, and encourage all Valdez citizens to take a proactive role in ending the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous persons by supporting law enforcement and victim advocacy.

Dated this 3rd day of May 2023.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

Sharon Scheidt, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk