

Submitted by: Assembly Members Weddleton,
Dunbar, and Petersen
Prepared by: Municipal Clerk's Office
For reading: March 5, 2019

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2019-77**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY RECOGNIZING MARCH
2019 AS BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH.**

WHEREAS, March is National Brain Injury Awareness Month – a time to recognize the prevalence of brain injuries and help make lives better for individuals who have sustained this kind of trauma; and

WHEREAS, Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injuries (TABI) can happen to anyone and can bring a lifetime of secondary health conditions including, physical impairment, developmental delays, paralysis, cognitive and behavior problems, suicidal thoughts, and a greater risk for dementia and Alzheimer's, they present lifelong challenges for individuals and their families, and sadly, these injuries are largely preventable as they are typically the result of motor vehicle crashes, falls, assaults, domestic violence, sports or occupational injuries; and

WHEREAS, the incidence of identified TABI in Alaska is statistically significantly higher than the national rate; and

WHEREAS, some types of brain injuries are underlying contributors to homelessness, substance and alcohol abuse, criminal behavior, domestic violence, and incorrectly diagnosed mental and behavioral health disorders, but with easy access to education, assessment, support, and care, the overall quality of life will greatly increase and individuals will be able to return to their home, school, work and community, and overall costs for care will decrease; and

WHEREAS, policy makers have a responsibility to promote the safety and wellbeing of their communities and the prevention of brain injuries through resolutions such as encouraging sober and safe pregnancy, driving with a seatbelt, securely covering loads, restricting cell phone use while driving, wearing helmets and having access to clean and healthy foods; and

WHEREAS, global projects such as "Unmasking Brain Injury" seek to give survivors a voice, promote brain injury awareness and education, and eliminate stigma and discrimination by showing that persons living with brain injuries are deserving of dignity, respect, compassion, and full inclusion in their communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Anchorage Assembly recognizes March 2019 as **Brain Injury Awareness Month** and encourages the people of Anchorage to further public awareness of the effects of brain injuries and the importance of preventing brain injuries and observe Brain Injury Awareness Month with appropriate programs and activities.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this ___ day of _____, 2019.

Chair

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk