

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

City & Borough of Sitka

Proclamation

WHEREAS, since 1995, the American Public Health Association, through its sponsorship of National Public Health Week, has educated the public, policymakers and public health professionals about issues important to improving the public's health; and

WHEREAS, seven in 10 deaths in the U.S. are related to preventable diseases such as obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, and cancer. Another striking fact is that 75 percent of our health care dollars are spent treating such diseases. However, only 3 percent of our health care dollars go toward prevention; and

WHEREAS, nearly one-third of all students in the United States do not graduate from high school on time. Students who don't graduate face lifelong health risks and high medical costs, and are more likely to engage in risky health behaviors. They are less likely to be employed and insured, and earn less—all of which continues the cycle of poverty and disparities; and

WHEREAS, more than half of all cancer deaths could be prevented by making healthy choices like not smoking, staying at a healthy weight, eating right, keeping active, and getting recommended screening tests; and

WHEREAS, foodborne contaminants cause an average of 5,000 deaths, 325,000 hospitalizations, 76 million illnesses and costs billions of dollars annually. The five most common foodborne pathogens cost the U.S. economy more than \$44 billion each year in medical costs and lost productivity; and

WHEREAS, strong public health systems are critical for sustaining and improving community health!

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mim McConnell, Mayor of Sitka, Alaska, do hereby proclaim April 7-13, 2014, as


NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

AND call upon the people of Sitka, Alaska to observe this week by helping our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers and leaders better understand the value of public health and adopt preventive lifestyle habits in light of this year's theme, "**Public Health: Start Here.**"

Signed and sealed on this 11th day of April 2014.

Mim McConnell, Mayor

ATTEST:



Colleen Ingman, MMC
Municipal Clerk