

Proclamation

SUPPORTING PUBLIC AWARENESS ON THE EPIDEMIC OF MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN, GIRLS, RELATIVES, PERSONS, AND OTHER LOCAL CITIZENS

WHEREAS, In November 2019, the President of the United States signed Executive Order 13898 establishing a Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indian (AI) and Alaska Natives (AN) to address ongoing and severe concerns of Tribal Governments regarding the high and disproportionate number of unsolved missing person and homicide cases in AI/AN communities particularly among women and girls; and

WHEREAS, Our community is not far removed from high profile cases of missing and murdered women. In 2015, after being listed as a missing person for three years, Lael Grant was declared dead. In 2017, Ali Clayton, was brutally murdered by her partner. And most recently in 2020, the cold case of Jessica Baggen, who was found sexually assaulted and murdered in 1996, was finally solved; and

WHEREAS, We recognize in order to aide in the solution, we first must identify, and when appropriate, provide resources and services to address the related problems of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women including but not limited to domestic and societal violence, rape and assault, systemic racism in our criminal and justice systems; problematic data collection and reporting, unaddressed intergenerational trauma throughout Indian country, cultural constructs of gender roles; and many other complex factors that result in Indigenous women being 10 times more likely to be murdered than the national average; in addition over 84% of Indigenous women will experience violence in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, The City and Borough of Sitka supports efforts of community members, non-profit and business organizations, and our state, municipal and tribal government entities to bring awareness of this issue to Sitka through local media and education campaigns, a MMIW Amber Webb Qaspeq display at the Sitka Public library, community building activities, fundraising and this resolution of support; and

WHEREAS, Further, it is by working in, and through partnerships that we are able to pool resources, strengthen connections, and make progress on social issues that negatively impact our community. We support those who are focused on issues related to MMIW and commend those who have stepped up to assist in this effort. When taken as a whole we hold up and honor our stolen sisters, stand in solidarity with families who experienced and continue to grieve a loss, and send a statement that we will be part of the solution to this crisis; and

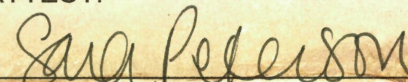
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska, hereby declares March 8, 2021, also known as International Women's Day, as a day to commemorate all Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW), Missing and Murdered Women and Girls (MMIWG), Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR), Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) and Missing and Murdered Persons from our community of Sheet'ka (Sitka); we also encourage Citizens to safely participate in the related events scheduled to take place between now and that date.

Signed and sealed this 23rd day of February 2021.




Steven Eisenbeisz, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sara Peterson, MMC
Municipal Clerk