

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION

November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month

WHEREAS, In 2012 an estimated 43,920 people will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in the United States and 37,390 will die from the disease; and

WHEREAS, Pancreatic cancer is one of the deadliest cancers, is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States, and is the only major cancer with a five-year relative survival rate in the single digits at just six percent; and

WHEREAS, When symptoms of pancreatic cancer present themselves, it is usually too late for an optimistic prognosis, and 74 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within the first year of their diagnosis while 94 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within the first five years; and

WHEREAS, Of all the racial/ethnic groups in the United States, African Americans have the highest incidence rate of pancreatic cancer, between 34 percent and 70 percent higher than the other groups; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 60 deaths will occur in Alaska in 2012; there is no cure for pancreatic cancer and there have been no significant improvements in survival rates in the last 40 years; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Government invests significantly less money in pancreatic cancer research than it does in any of the other leading cancer killers; and pancreatic cancer research constitutes only approximately 2 percent of the National Cancer Institute's federal research funding, a figure far too low given the severity of the disease, its mortality rate, and how little is known about how to arrest it; and

WHEREAS, The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is the first and only national patient advocacy organization that serves the pancreatic cancer community in the City of Homer and nationwide by focusing its efforts on public policy, research funding, patient services, and public awareness and education related to developing effective treatments and a cure for pancreatic cancer; and

WHEREAS, The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and its affiliates in the City of Homer support those patients currently battling pancreatic cancer, as well as to those who have lost their lives to the disease, and are committed to nothing less than a cure; and

WHEREAS, the good health and well-being of the residents of the City of Homer are enhanced as a direct result of increased awareness about pancreatic cancer and research into early detection, causes, and effective treatments.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Beth Wythe, Mayor of Homer, Alaska, do hereby proclaim November 2012 as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Homer, Alaska, to be affixed this 26th day of November, 2012.

CITY OF HOMER

BETH WYTHER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JO JOHNSON, CMC, CITY CLERK