

# CITY OF HOMER

## MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION

### THE BIG READ

WHEREAS, The Big Read is a series of free outreach events designed to promote literacy, reading and open dialogue within our community; the 2015 series will focus on author Ray Bradbury's classic dystopian novel *Fahrenheit 451*; and

WHEREAS, The Friends of the Homer Public Library is one of 77 organizations nationwide to receive a grant as part of The Big Read project by the National Endowment for the Arts; Friends of the Homer Public Library, along with its community partners, will host various Big Read events throughout the month, including: book discussions, guest speakers, a drama performance, art classes, film viewings and panel discussions, just to name a few; and

WHEREAS, The Big Read was created in response to the 2004 National Endowment for the Arts report "Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America," which identified a critical decline in literary reading; the study showed that literary reading was declining among all age groups, with the steepest decline in the youngest age groups; and

WHEREAS, The City of Homer is committed to providing educational opportunities to our residents, such as The Big Read; literacy and open dialogue within the community is of vital importance to continue to grow and become a prosperous region; we are thankful for Friends of the Library, The Homer Public Library, their partners, staff, and volunteers for the work they have done to make The Big Read project a success.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mary E. Wythe, Mayor of the City of Homer, on behalf of all its citizens, do hereby proclaim January 23 as "The Big Read Day" in the City of Homer and encourage all residents to take part in the various Big Read events from January 23 to March 19.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED the Seal of the City of Homer, Alaska, to be affixed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2015.

CITY OF HOMER

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MARY E. WYTHER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK