## <u>Რ</u> Kenai Peninsula Borough Alaska Proclamation <u></u> WHEREAS, September has been designated National Recovery Month in the State of Alaska and nationwide in an effort to educate Americans that substance use disorder treatments and mental health services can enable those with a substance use disorder to live a healthy and rewarding life; and WHEREAS, Recovery Month celebrates the gains made by those in recovery, reinforcing the positive message that behavioral health is essential to overall health, prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can and do recover; and WHEREAS, every day, residents of the Kenai Peninsula Borough recover from substance use disorders and join the many others in our community who live in long-term recovery; and WHEREAS, the 2023 National Recovery Month theme, "Recovery is for Everyone: Every Person, Every Family, Every Community," reminds people in recovery and those who support them that no one is alone in the journey through recovery; and WHEREAS, alcohol and drug addictions are a public health issue of concern to all Alaskans, but with proper support from family, friends, medical professionals, and the community at large, those affected can overcome their disease; and WHEREAS, we must provide support and compassion for relatives and friends with substance use disorders, recognize the signs of a problem, and guide those in need to appropriate treatment and recovery support services; and WHEREAS, individuals in recovery can help dispel myths and stigma surrounding substance use disorders and addictions, and can serve as guides for others throughout the course of treatment; and WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough supports local recovery coalitions and programs in an effort to help more people achieve and sustain long-term recovery; and WHEREAS, the KPB acknowledges the efforts of the Southern Kenai Peninsula All Things Recovery Coalition to achieve these common goals; NOW THEREFORE, I, Peter A. Micciche, Mayor of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2023 as: **National Recovery Month** and encourage all residents to express compassion for those who are struggling with substance use; to foster an open, honest, and supportive dialogue about the effects of substance use in our communities; and to support programs that improve the circumstances for fellow Alaskans striving for recovery. Peter A. Micciche Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor