



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
**OFFICE OF
THE MAYOR**

MAYOR DEANNA REED

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Proclamation Recognizing Brain Injury Awareness Month

WHEREAS, a traumatic brain injury is a contributing factor to a third of all injury-related deaths in the United States and is the leading cause of death and disability in children and young adults; and

WHEREAS, according to the Brain Injury Association of America, each year an estimated 2.5 million children and adults in the United States sustain a traumatic brain injury (TBI) and another 795,000 individuals sustain an acquired brain injury (ABI) from nontraumatic causes. TBIs can affect the functionality of the brain – affecting thinking, reasoning, and memory; and

WHEREAS, most traumatic brain injuries could be prevented with the top causes including, falls, car crashes, struck by/against events, and assaults; and

WHEREAS, traumatic brain injury is the signature injury of war, presenting new challenges for members of the military and their families; and

WHEREAS, an injury that happens in an instant can bring a lifetime of physical, cognitive and behavior challenges; and

WHEREAS, because of a lack of awareness about brain injury and the difficulty of diagnosing brain injury, many persons with brain injury live for years without recognizing and dealing with their injuries; and

WHEREAS, early, equal and adequate access to care greatly increases the overall quality of life and will enable individuals to return to home, school, work and community; and

WHEREAS, Brain Injury Connections of the Shenandoah Valley, Inc. of Harrisonburg endorses Brain Injury Awareness month, a nation-wide campaign created to promote awareness of brain injuries; and

WHEREAS, March has been designated as Brain Injury Awareness Month to promote public awareness of the extent, causes, consequences, treatment and prevention of brain injury;

NOW, THEREFORE, as Mayor Deanna Reed, I ask the citizens of Harrisonburg to support Brain Injury Connections of the Shenandoah Valley, Inc., a local nonprofit, in their efforts to serve brain injured individuals, through volunteerism, education, and financial support. I do hereby proclaim March 2023 as

BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

in the City of Harrisonburg and encourage all citizens to join me in this special observance.

SIGNED this 28th day of February, 2023

Deanna Reed, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Pamela Ulmer, City Clerk