



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 2021 as Brain Injury Awareness Month in the City of Harrisonburg and encourage all citizens to join me in this special observance.

SIGNED this _____ day of March, 2021

Deanna Reed, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Pamela Ulmer, City Clerk