



## 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 2.8 million children and adults in the United States sustain a traumatic brain injury (TBI) and another 1 million 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 us in this special observance.

SIGNED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024

Deanna Reed, Mayor

Attest:

Pamela Ulmer, City Clerk