



City of Grand Junction, State of Colorado

Proclamation

Whereas, it is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official days to increase awareness of serious illnesses that affect the lives of citizens of Colorado such as PANDAS (Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections) and PANS (Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndromes); and

Whereas, a diagnosis of PANDAS or PANS means a child has a sudden, dramatic change in personality displayed as Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) together with accompanying symptoms following a strep, bacterial, or viral infection. The OCD can display as intense fear or anxiety. Accompanying symptoms may include tics, anxiety, depression, behavioral regression, deterioration in school performance, sensory sensitivities, severely restricted food intake, and more; and

Whereas, researchers have begun to substantiate that this syndrome involves a misdirected autoimmune process that affects or weakens the Blood Brain Barrier. The inflammatory process irritates a region of the brain that manages a variety of functions such as movement, cognitive perception, habit, executive "logic based" thinking, emotions, and the endocrine system; and

Whereas, a conservative estimate of prevalence is 162,000 in the US alone. PANDAS/PANS is likely as common as Pediatric Cancer and Pediatric Diabetes, and can seriously affect the healthy outcome of a child's life; and

Whereas, PANDAS/PANS is often misdiagnosed and undertreated. Treatment varies by the needs of the child, but may include antibiotics, steroids, IVIG (intravenous immunoglobulin), Plasmapheresis, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and anti-inflammatory medications; and

Whereas, PANDASnetwork.org is a 501c3 non-profit corporation dedicated to improving the diagnosis and treatment of children with PANDAS/PANS. PANDAS Network is also a conduit for researchers to navigate collaborations and the medical community to find information; and it is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this health issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, State and national levels.

Whereas, NOW, THEREFORE, I, Abram Herman, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of Grand Junction, do hereby proclaim October 9, 2024, as

"PANDAS/PANS Awareness Day"

in the City of Grand Junction and urge all the citizens of the City to turn its attention to and increase awareness of this serious illness, as well as the ongoing research and treatments available to assist those stricken by it.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official Seal of the City of Grand Junction this 2nd day of August, 2024.



Mayor

