

*Town of Huntersville
Proclamation*

WHEREAS, PANDAS/PITAND/PANS are serious, clinically diagnosed illnesses; and

WHEREAS, PANDAS (Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections) is the sudden onset of OCD (Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder) often displayed as severe anxiety and emotional disturbances in addition to two or more of the following symptoms; tics or other abnormal movement, severe separation anxiety, generalized anxiety, irritability, emotional lability, aggression, personality changes, ADHD, inability to concentrate, sensory sensitivities, deterioration in learning abilities and school performance, developmental and age regression, sleep and nighttime difficulties, and /or urinary frequency or daytime/nighttime secondary enuresis; and

WHEREAS, PITAND (Pediatric Infection-Triggered Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder) is similar to PANDAS in terms of presentation; however, it consists of a broader list of possible triggers, not only strep. Triggers may include Mycoplasma Pneumonia, Mono, Lyme, viruses, and more; and

WHEREAS, PANS (Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome) is the broadest of the three related disorders as it includes not only presentations associated with a preceding infection, but also acute-onset non-infectious triggers, such as environmental and metabolic. PANS criteria varies slightly from the PANDAS and PITAND. The working criteria for PANS is abrupt, dramatic onset of OCD or severely restricted food intake, concurrent presence of additional neuropsychiatric symptoms, with similarly severe and acute onset and symptoms are not better explained by a known neurologic or medical disorder; and

WHEREAS, PANDAS/PITAND/PANS children may have moderate to dramatic improvements with antibiotics within one week of treatment; however, further interventions may be needed; many parents and doctors report prolonged antibiotics (two months to several years) and/or IVIG (intravenous immunoglobulin) treatment or plasmapheresis; and

WHEREAS, PANDAS/PITAND/PANS remains frequently misdiagnosed, undiagnosed and under treated due to the lack of awareness of these disorders, both by the public and medical community; and

WHEREAS, Researchers at the National Institute of Mental Health are currently engaged in extensive research and testing on how to effectively treat these disorders; and

WHEREAS, while the true prevalence of PANDAS/PITAND/PANS is yet to be known, a conservative estimate is 1 in 200 children are impacted; PANDAS/PITAND/PANS is likely as common as illnesses like Pediatric Cancer, Pediatric Diabetes and ALS, and can seriously affect the healthy outcome of a child's life, yet funding and awareness of PANDAS/PITAND/PANS is scarce; and

WHEREAS, the organizations such as PANDASNETWORK.org and PANS Research and Advocacy Initiative are dedicated to advocating on behalf of youth with PANDAS/PITAND/PANS by providing emotional and social support to families, raising community awareness, and investing in data-driven research.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John Aneralla, Mayor of Huntersville, do hereby proclaim October 9, 2017 as PANDAS/PITAND/PANS Awareness Day in Huntersville and commend its observance to all citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I do hereby set my hand and cause the Seal of the Town of Huntersville to be affixed, this the 22nd day of September, 2017.