

**PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 2008 AS
RECOVERY MONTH**

WHEREAS, treatment and long-term recovery from substance use disorders can offer a renewed outlook on life for those who are addicted and their family members; and

WHEREAS, substance use disorders impact 22.6 million people 12 years of age or older in the United States (or 9.2 percent of the population), which is more than the number of people living with coronary heart disease, cancer or Alzheimer's disease combined; and

WHEREAS, people who receive treatment for substance use disorders can lead more productive and fulfilling lives, personally and professionally; and

WHEREAS, studies have consistently found that individualized treatment is essential for people to be successful in their path of recovery; and

WHEREAS, real stories of long-term recovery can inspire others to ask for help and improve their own lives, the lives of their families, and the entire community; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that we educate our community members to recognize that substance use disorders are serious health care problems; however, by treating them like other chronic diseases, we can improve the quality of life for the entire community; and

WHEREAS, to help achieve this goal, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, and the Virginia Department of Health invite all residents of Hampton to participate in Recovery Month;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Molly Joseph Ward, Mayor, on behalf of the City Council of the City of Hampton, Virginia, do hereby proclaim September 2008, as

RECOVERY MONTH

in Hampton and call upon the citizens of Hampton to observe this month with appropriate programs, activities, and ceremonies supporting this year's theme, "Join the Voices for Recovery: Real People, Real Recovery."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Hampton, Virginia, to be affixed this Tenth Day of September, Two Thousand and Eight.

**Molly Joseph Ward
Mayor**