

**CITY OF WHITTIER  
PROCLAMATION  
Honoring Mike and Kelly Bender**

**WHEREAS**, Mike and Kelly Bender have been dedicated members of the Whittier community for several decades, contributing significantly to the economic vitality and character of the city through their longstanding local business ownership; and

**WHEREAS**, their work has supported residents and visitors alike, helping to shape Whittier's identity as a welcoming gateway to Prince William Sound; and

**WHEREAS**, beyond their business contributions, Mike and Kelly Bender have demonstrated a sustained commitment to community involvement, service, and the well-being of Whittier; and

**WHEREAS**, their efforts have left a lasting impact on the community, reflecting a deep investment in the people, culture, and future of Whittier; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of their outstanding contributions, Mike and Kelly Bender were honored with the **Lifetime Achievement Award** by Visit Anchorage, acknowledging their enduring influence and dedication to Alaska's visitor industry;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Whittier hereby recognize and honor Mike and Kelly Bender for their lifetime of service, their meaningful contributions to the community, and their well-deserved recognition as recipients of this distinguished award; and

**BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that the City of Whittier extends its gratitude and appreciation to Mike and Kelly Bender for their lasting legacy and continued impact on the community.

**Dated this 21st day of April, 2026**

---

**Victor Shen**  
Mayor