

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

PROCLAMATION

- Whereas:** All people should have access to safe, healthy, and affordable homes within communities of opportunity; and
- Whereas:** Everyone benefits from affordable housing, including the people who reside in these properties, their neighbors, businesses, employers, and the community as a whole; and
- Whereas:** The Association of Washington Cities determined that Human Services, Homelessness, and Affordable Housing was a critical priority for the 2016 Legislative Session and the All Home community aims to make homelessness rare, brief, and one-time; and
- Whereas:** The 2016 One Night Count in January of this year found 4,505 people in King County, including 245 on the Eastside, sleeping outdoors without shelter; and
- Whereas:** The Bellevue School District identified 220 students as homeless during the 2014 – 2015 school year and 7,790 Bellevue families are considered “housing insecure,” because they are spending more than half of their income on rent & utilities; and
- Whereas:** The combined cost burden of housing plus transportation can be substantially reduced by locating affordable housing opportunities in proximity to transit; and
- Whereas:** Recent Bellevue surveys of residents and business community, and outreach for the City’s Comprehensive Plan update, identified affordable housing as a critical need for Bellevue; and
- Whereas:** The City has adopted a Housing Element as part of its Comprehensive Plan which includes goals and policies to address housing needs for all members of the community including the homeless and persons with special needs; and
- Whereas:** The City Council has identified affordable housing as a priority, and initiated the Affordable Housing Strategy, to implement new tools to ensure affordable housing opportunities are available throughout the city at a range of affordability levels that reflect our population and workforce;
- Whereas:** The City is a member of ARCH, a nationally recognized organization, that supports the efforts of its members to create affordable housing in our city and communities throughout East King County; and
- Whereas:** United in an effort to raise public awareness, communities throughout King County are participating in local Affordable Housing Week efforts to inform the public of the critical need to preserve and increase affordable housing in our communities; and

Whereas: The City of Bellevue endorses the goals, objectives, and purposes of Affordable Housing Week, and in doing so, recommits itself to ensuring that our community thrives with opportunity, and that all people in it live with dignity in safe, healthy, and affordable homes.

Now, therefore, I, John Stokes, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim the week of **May 16 - 22, 2016** as:

Affordable Housing Week

in Bellevue, and encourage its citizens to join in this effort.

John Stokes
Mayor