



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

Whereas: Mental Health Awareness Month has been observed since 1949 to raise awareness of mental health conditions and the importance of mental health as an essential part of overall health; and

Whereas: One in five adults experiences a mental health issue in any given year and one in 17 adults lives with chronic mental illness such as major depression, bipolar disorder or schizophrenia; and

Whereas: People with severe mental illnesses are more than 10 times more likely to be victims of violent crime than the general population; and

Whereas: Long delays – sometimes decades – often occur between the period when symptoms first appear and when individuals get help, making early identification and treatment critical in the successful management of mental health conditions; and

Whereas: Through public education, further awareness and reduction of stigma associated with mental illness, the lives of individuals and families impacted by mental health conditions can be greatly improved; and

Whereas: Local service providers respond to the needs of people with mental health conditions in Bellevue by working to transform the quality of life for people vulnerable to mental illness through a broad spectrum of care; and

Whereas: There is a significant disparity between different racial and ethnic groups in their ability to access linguistically and culturally appropriate mental health services, meaning more services are needed to address this inequitable access; and

Whereas: The Bellevue City Council approved investments for behavioral health resources and a Community Crisis Assistance Team that helps community members in crisis, diverting them from jails or hospitals and providing appropriate follow-up mental health care and case management afterward.

Now, therefore, I, Lynne Robinson, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim May 2024 as:

Mental Health Awareness Month

in Bellevue and encourage all members of the community along with businesses, schools and community organizations to make a pledge to increase awareness and understanding of mental illness, support mental health care, eliminate stigmas and recognize the need for appropriate and accessible services for all.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue