



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

Whereas: International Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held annually on Aug. 31 to remember those gone too soon from overdose deaths; and

Whereas: No community in Washington state is immune to drug overdose deaths. In King County, the number of overdose deaths has grown exponentially, increasing by 20% between 2019-2020, and an additional 39% between 2020-2021; and

Whereas: The recent surge in overdose deaths is driven by fentanyl, which is a synthetic opioid drug 100 times more potent than morphine, 50 times more potent than heroin and involved in 70% of all confirmed overdose deaths occurring in 2022, compared with 10% prior to 2018; and

Whereas: Often consumed unknowingly by users, fentanyl is being used to lace or make fake prescription pills and is also found in dangerous street drugs, such as heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine; and

Whereas: More than 1,000 people in King County died of overdoses in 2022 and more than 700 have died so far this year, including three in Bellevue on July 21. Nearly four people die of fentanyl overdoses a day in King County; and

Whereas: National Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Day is established in memory of loved ones who lost their lives to fentanyl poisoning and to help prevent more deaths from the drug through awareness of its dangers; and

Whereas: Addiction is a complex and treatable disease, and a life of recovery is possible. First responders in Bellevue now carry Narcan, an overdose-reversing medication that has saved lives; and

Whereas: The City of Bellevue supports local, county and state efforts related to education, prevention, treatment and recovery support for substance abuse.

Now, therefore, I, Lynne Robinson, mayor of Bellevue, Washington, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim Aug. 21, 2023, as:

**National Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Day
and Aug. 31, 2023, as:
International Overdose Awareness Day**

in Bellevue, encouraging residents to support education and awareness.



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Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue