Whereas: Food insecurity occurs when individuals or households lack reliable

access to affordable, nutritious food; and

**Whereas:** Food needs are one of the most common reasons for King County

residents to contact social service providers; and

Whereas: Hispanic, Black and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander residents and

people with disabilities are disproportionately represented among people

seeking food assistance in Bellevue, King County and many places

across the country; and

Whereas: One in five Bellevue school-age children experience food insecurity;

Whereas: Children facing hunger are more likely to experience developmental

delay, repeat school years and experience social and behavioral

challenges; and

**Whereas:** Bellevue desires to build a future where no one goes hungry and where

all residents have access to healthy, culturally responsive, affordable,

fresh, locally made and sustainably produced food; and

Whereas: We commend food banks, emergency and hot meal programs, and the

hundreds of volunteers working with our cities, local faith organizations

and social service agencies to address the rising hunger needs; and

Whereas: We encourage Bellevue community members to donate or volunteer at a

local food bank or human services partner agency and help combat local

food insecurity and hunger.

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

## **Hunger Action and Awareness Month**

in Bellevue, and strongly urge all residents to join area food banks in "sharing what they can" to support our neighbors who are hungry.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor City of Bellevue