



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

Whereas: The City of Bellevue acknowledges that Bellevue and surrounding areas exist on the ancestral homelands of the Coast Salish people, including the Duwamish, who are the original caretakers of this land and are still here, fostering their rich and vibrant culture and continuing to honor their heritage; and

Whereas: Three out of four native women will be physically assaulted in their lifetime. The second leading cause of death for Indigenous girls ages one to four is murder, according to the Urban Indian Health Institute, while the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lists murder as the third leading cause of death for American Indian and Alaska Native women; and

Whereas: Since 2017, grassroots actions have grown at the local, regional, national and international levels to recognize May 5 as a National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women to honor and call for justice for all missing and murdered Indigenous women around the globe; and

Whereas: A National Week of Action April 29-May 5 calls all communities to action in honor of the thousands of missing and murdered Indigenous women across the United States; and

Whereas: Tribal governments and communities report the loss of Indigenous women is devastating to both tribal communities and the nation, as insufficient resources and data, complex legal frameworks, underreporting of assaults and lack of clarity on jurisdictional responsibilities have exacerbated barriers and hindered efforts to locate those who are missing; and

Whereas: Bellevue commits to continuing to nurture relationships and support our local tribal governments and the community's efforts to increase awareness while pursuing and supporting equitable outcomes for tribes and communities of color as we honor the experiences and wisdom of our diverse population.

Now, therefore I, Lynne Robinson, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim **April 29-May 5, 2024**, as:

National Week of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

in Bellevue, recognizing the unique and disproportionate rates of violence against this population and calling on our community to say 'enough is enough' by participating in events, exploring available resources or organizing awareness activities in your community.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue