



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

Whereas: International Overdose Awareness Day is recognized annually on Aug. 31 to remember those lost to overdose deaths; and

Whereas: No community is immune to drug overdose deaths. In King County, the number of overdose deaths grew exponentially during the pandemic, but new data shows that the number of overdose deaths is dropping; and

Whereas: The pandemic-era surge in overdose deaths was largely driven by fentanyl, which is a synthetic opioid drug 100 times more potent than morphine, 50 times more potent than heroin and involved in 80% of all confirmed overdose deaths occurring in 2023, compared with 10% prior to 2018. Deaths from methamphetamine overdose have also seen a sharp increase; 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 1,300 people in King County died of overdoses in 2023 and 630 people have died so far this year; and

Whereas: Addiction is a complex and treatable disease. A life of recovery is possible, but more access to lifesaving treatment services is needed; and

Whereas: First responders in Bellevue carry Narcan, an overdose-reversing medication that has saved lives, and the City of Bellevue recently hired its first opioid use disorder social worker; 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. 31, 2024, as:

International Overdose Awareness Day

in Bellevue, and encourage community members to support education, awareness, and increased access to life-saving treatment options.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue