



# City of Bellevue | Commendation

- Whereas:** Mary Kate ("Kate") Berens has provided outstanding service to the City of Bellevue for 21 years, including the past seven as deputy city manager and nine years as deputy city attorney before that; and
- Whereas:** Kate was born in Bellevue and lived in the Lake Hills neighborhood until she was nine; and
- Whereas:** It was a homecoming of sorts when the young lawyer left a prominent Seattle law firm to become a legal planner for Bellevue's Planning & Community Development Department in 2001; and
- Whereas:** As deputy city attorney in the City Attorney's Office from 2006 to 2014, Kate played a crucial role advising and representing the city, notably helping ensure Sound Transit light rail on the Eastside would serve Bellevue's interests, with limited impact on neighborhoods; and
- Whereas:** Kate consistently has been able to synthesize and explain details about complex projects and policies, recognize the key impacts on residents, and skillfully counsel the city as it navigates unprecedented growth; and
- Whereas:** As deputy city manager since 2014, Kate has provided oversight for multiple departments and led countless high-profile strategic initiatives that have improved services, all the while modeling honest, caring leadership that reinforced for all staff how their contributions make a difference for the people we serve.

***Now, therefore, I,*** Mayor Lynne Robinson, on behalf of the Bellevue City Council, do, this **28<sup>th</sup> day of February, in the year 2022**, hereby commend:

## Mary Kate Berens

for her commitment to public service, excellent leadership and consistent consideration of resident and local business needs in her roles with the City of Bellevue.

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Lynne Robinson, Mayor  
City of Bellevue