

Whereas: More than a billion people in many countries worldwide, including many Bellevue residents, celebrate and recognize the Lunar New Year; and
Whereas: The Lunar New Year starts on Jan. 22 this year and is a time when people gather together to celebrate the hope of the coming spring season, gathering with family and friends and often marking the occasion with cultural events and performances; and
Whereas: 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit, one of the 12 animal signs that comes from the Chinese zodiac and considered to be among the luckiest animal signs; and
Whereas: The City of Bellevue recognizes the value of its diverse residents, and the significant cultural contributions of our Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in particular, as we begin a new year together.

*Now, therefore, I,* Lynne Robinson, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim Jan. 22, 2023, and the week thereafter as:

## Lunar New Year Week

in Bellevue and encourage residents to seek out the many celebrations being held in our area in the days leading up to and beyond the start of the Year of the Rabbit as a way to join their neighbors in the annual celebration while wishing good fortune, health and happiness to all.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor City of Bellevue