



Bellevue Police Department

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 16, 2016

To: Mayor Stokes and City Councilmembers

From: Chief Stephen Mylett
Police Department

Subject: National Police Week and Peace Officer's Memorial Day Proclamation

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation which designated May 15th as "Peace Officers Memorial Day" and the week in which that date falls as "National Police Week." During National Police Week, thousands of law enforcement officers from around the world converge on Washington, D.C. to participate in a number of planned events which honor those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. National Police Week draws in between 25,000 to 40,000 attendees to the Nation's Capital. The attendees come from departments throughout the United States as well as from agencies throughout the world.

There are approximately 900,000 law enforcement officers serving in communities across the United States, including the dedicated members of the Bellevue Police Department. These law enforcement officers put themselves on the front lines of fighting crime, to preserve the quality of community, and to protect our safety. More than 20,000 law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty, including 291 in the State of Washington. The dedicated men and women of the Bellevue Police Department provide vital public service to the residents and visitors of Bellevue on a daily basis by enforcing the laws and safeguarding their lives and property, rights and freedoms.

It is important that all citizens know and understand the problems, duties and responsibilities of their police department, and that members of our police department recognize their duty to serve the people by safeguarding life and property, by protecting them against violence or disorder, and by protecting the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression or intimidation.

I request the Mayor and Council to call upon all residents and visitors of the City of Bellevue to observe the week of May 15th as Police Week with appropriate ceremonies in which all of our people may join in commemorating police officers, past and present, who have devoted their lives and dedicated their service to protecting our communities. I also ask the City to pay special recognition to those law enforcement officers across the Nation, and in our State, who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others by proclaiming May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day.

Attachment: Proclamation