



## MEMORANDUM

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Date: May 15, 2017

To: Mayor Stokes and City Councilmembers

From: Patrick Foran, Director, 452-5377  
Shelley Brittingham, Assistant Director, 452-5213  
*Parks and Community Services Department*

Subject: National Older Americans Month Proclamation

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy designated May of that year as Senior Citizens Month, encouraging the nation to pay tribute in some way to older people across the country. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter's Proclamation changed the name to Older Americans Month, a time to celebrate those 60 and older through ceremonies, events, and public recognition. For 31 years, the City of Bellevue has celebrated National Older Americans Month. This year's theme is "Age Out Loud", and is intended to give aging a new voice—one that reflects what today's older adults have to say about aging.

According to the 2010 US Census, the percentage of the population 60 years and older living in the United States is 18.5 percent. In the King County, that percentage is 16.2 percent, and in Bellevue, the percentage of the population 60 and older is 19 percent. This number is expected to continue to grow as the percentage of people 45-60 years of age is currently 21.2 percent.

The City of Bellevue opportunities that are in place to meet the changing needs of a more active diverse older adult population include: aerobic and strength building classes, fitness centers, dance classes, health lectures, singing groups, swimming, biking, regional trips, golf, tennis, hiking, meals, social activities at North Bellevue, Crossroads, South Bellevue, Northwest Arts, and Highland Community Centers, as well active programs at the Bellevue Youth Theatre, Golf Course, Tennis, and Aquatic Centers.

In addition the Bellevue Network on Aging (BNOA) strives to promote awareness of needs and resources that support older adults through life's transitions and is currently focused on advocacy, affordable housing, outreach and accessible transportation.

We invite Council, staff, volunteers, and all members of the community to join us in celebrating national Older Americans Month.

### Attachments

Proclamation

Bellevue Network on Aging 2016 Annual Report

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