

---

DATE: September 18, 2017

TO: Mayor Stokes and City Councilmembers

FROM: Patrick Foran, Director, Parks & Community Services

SUBJECT: Zakes Foundation and Bellevue Skate Park Recognition

Eight year old, Ethan Zakes was a participant at the Bellevue Skate Park, when he was diagnosed with a rare genetic disease, adrenoleukodystrophy, known as ALD. Ethan was passionate about skateboarding and found the sport to be a great release for his illness. As Ethan's health deteriorated, the Make a Wish Foundation granted Ethan's wish and sponsored a skate boarding event at the Bellevue Skate Park. With only two days of preparation, Skate Park staff, with the assistance of the Bellevue Police motorcycle division, created an unforgettable event for Ethan, his family and friends. Unfortunately, Ethan died in 2011 at the age of 10. After his passing, the Zakes family discovered that infants can be screened at birth for ALD, which could assist in early diagnoses and treatment. Ethan's parents, Brad and Nancy Zakes, established the Ethan Zakes Foundation to raise awareness regarding ALD, and lead the effort to make ALD mandatory screening for all newborn infants in Washington State.

To support that effort, the Zakes Foundation partnered with the City of Bellevue to host an annual event at the Bellevue Skate Park. The "EZRocks" event raises awareness and funds for ALD. Due to the event's high profile and the work of the Zakes Foundation, I am pleased to share that the 2017 Washington State Legislature approved ALD newborn screening to be included by the State Board of Health.

This year, the fifth Annual "EZRocks" event was held on August 5, with 450 youth and adults attending the day-long event, and 100 skaters participating in skating competitions. Bellevue businesses and organizations contributed \$30,000 in event sponsorships and donations. Bellevue Skate Park staff and Bellevue Police have been highly praised by the Zakes family for their support and participation.

Brad and Nancy Zakes will be introduced to Council.