Whereas: Over a billion people in China and millions in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines

and around the world, including many Bellevue residents, are celebrating the Lunar New

Year; and

Whereas: The Lunar New Year, based on the lunar calendar, started in mid-February this year in

Asia, and is a time when people travel to celebrate with family and friends; and

Whereas: This is the Year of the Ox, one of the 12 animals signs that comes from the Chinese zodiac;

and

Whereas: People born this year are said to assume the traits of an ox including strength, intelligence,

reliability and fairness; and

Whereas: While we cannot gather in person due to the COVID-19 pandemic impacts, observers can

still meet virtually and enjoy performances; and

Whereas: The beginning of the Lunar New Year is a celebration of spring and the hope it brings; and

Whereas: The City of Bellevue recognizes the value of its diverse residents and the significant cultural

contribution of our Asian and Pacific Islander communities; and

Now, therefore, I, Lynne Robinson, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim the **week of Feb. 21-28** as:

Week of The Lunar New Year

and encourage residents to join their neighbors in this annual celebration, while also wishing good fortune, health and happiness to all residents, workers and visitors.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor City of Bellevue