



DATE: June 14, 2021

TO: Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers

FROM: Elaine Acacio, Diversity & Inclusion Program Administrator, 452-4246
City Manager's Office

Mark Heilman, Neighborhood Outreach Manager, 452-2735
Mike McCormick Huentelman, Assistant Director, 452-4089
Mac Cummins, Director, 452-6191
Community Development Department

This report is for information only.

Bellevue has received the 2021 All-America City Award from the National Civic League. The award by the National Civic League recognizes cities that leverage civic engagement, collaboration, inclusiveness and innovation to build equitable, thriving communities. The 2021 award theme was "Building Equitable and Resilient Communities".

The recognition as an All-America City acknowledges the significant work of the community and City staff to live out Bellevue's City Council vision of a city that welcomes the world. Bellevue was previously honored as an All-America City in 1955.

Bellevue's application detailed the community's strategic initiatives to become a more equitable community, and efforts to meet profound community needs during the pandemic. Specific program highlights for Bellevue included: Jubilee REACH's Groceries for Families program to meet ongoing practical needs during the pandemic; the City's Diversity Advantage Initiative; and the collaborative efforts with Bellevue's Downtown Rotary to fund and build Inspiration Playground in Downtown Park.

The award application highlighted additional examples of collaborative work that strengthen our entire community, including: Bellevue's community response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the arson at the Islamic Center of the Eastside, Highland Village, the Eastside Men's shelter, and Bellevue's Hate Has No Home Here campaign. The City's application also provided a written overview of investments that Bellevue has made in our civic infrastructure. Examples included: Bellevue Network on Aging, Youth Link, Bellevue Police Community Advisory Boards, Bellevue's Diversity Advantage Network, Neighborhood Walks, Installation of Hearing Assistance devices and Mobility Charging Stations at City Hall.

On June 8, Bellevue participated with 20 nationally recognized finalist cities on specific projects that advanced the work of equity and resilience. Bellevue's presentation was

shared at the virtual National Civic League convention by City Manager Brad Miyake, Diversity & Inclusion Administrator Elaine Acacio, Downtown Rotary Club's Rob Rose and Jubilee REACH's Ken Carpenter.

Bellevue's community continually reinvests in the work of becoming a more equitable and resilient community. We understand that there are profound challenges to overcome in becoming a more just and equitable community, and that work will never be finished. However, this award recognizes that the City and community's collaborative work toward building an equitable and resilient community is nationally recognized and reaffirms Bellevue's place as an All-America City.