



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

- Whereas:** The City of Bellevue recognizes that as a community we are all looking for ways to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic to slow the spread of the virus and to minimize loss of life and other impacts;
- Whereas:** Donations and support in response to the most urgent needs in the community have come from all residents, including a significant commitment from our Chinese community; and
- Whereas:** There has been a regional, national and worldwide trend of increased discrimination, particularly against Asian-American communities, since the COVID-19 virus was discovered; and
- Whereas:** These reprehensible displays of hate impair the ability of our first responders and other city services to provide needed attention to the COVID-19 response; and
- Whereas:** Viruses do not recognize race, nationality, or ethnicity and have the ability to infect people from all backgrounds. Having Chinese ancestry -- or any other ancestry -- does not make a person more vulnerable to this illness or more likely to be a source of the virus; and
- Whereas:** Hate and bias are not acceptable in our community – the City Council remains committed to our vision of welcoming the world and recognizing our diversity as a key strength for the city and our character; and
- Whereas:** Each of us has a personal responsibility to prevent the spread of misinformation, support all fellow community members and reject stigma, hate and bias in all forms; and
- Whereas:** In these times of social distancing, residents have the ability to [report incidents of bias and hate online](#) from the safety of their home or residence.

Now, therefore, I, Lynne Robinson, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim our renewed and ongoing support of embracing diversity and ensuring a welcoming environment for everyone in our community. Bellevue strongly stands against hate, bias, or violence based on race, nationality, gender, disability, or religion, and I urge all residents to come together and support their neighbors during this unprecedented time. As a community responding to the challenges brought by COVID-19, we are stronger together.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor

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