



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

- Whereas:** Bellevue is one of the most diverse cities in Washington state, with 40% of the population identifying as part of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, a group that has contributed and continues to contribute to our country's progress, culture and success; and
- Whereas:** Beginning in 2020 there has been a documented regional and nationwide trend of increased discrimination, hate and violence against Asian-American communities – from young adults to our most vulnerable elderly – exacerbated by false narratives and xenophobia around the coronavirus; and
- Whereas:** These ongoing and reprehensible displays of hate have often gone unnoticed and unreported, perpetuating a model minority myth that Asians will be complacent and stay silent, even when being targeted and harmed; and
- Whereas:** Hate, violence and bias are not accepted in our community especially when targeting or scapegoating individuals based on their race or identity; and
- Whereas:** The City Council remains committed to our vision of not just welcoming the world and recognizing our diversity as a key strength for the city and our character, but that we are a city where everyone has a deep sense of belonging; and
- Whereas:** Each of us has a personal responsibility to prevent the spread of misinformation, condemn violent acts in any form, support all fellow community members and reject stigma, hate and bias in all its forms; and
- Whereas:** There is an urgent need for the community at large to unite and come together to support the AAPI community and report incidences of hate and bias, especially as we continue to recover together from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- Whereas:** In the coming weeks, the city will be launching enhanced efforts and opportunities to engage to combat this virulent type of racism, intolerance and xenophobia.

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 commitment to be a diverse and inclusive community free from racism, so all who live, work, and play in Bellevue feel welcomed.

Bellevue strongly stands against hate, bias, or violence based on race, nationality, gender, disability, or religion, and I urge all residents to unite together in solidarity with our Asian-American and Pacific-Islander neighbors.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynne Robinson".

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue