



The City of Mercer Island, Washington

Proclamation

RENEWED COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

WHEREAS, the City of Mercer Island has declared a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion as a community priority by Proclamation No. 201 on November 21, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the inhumane treatment and tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota, provides yet another example of the work remaining to be done as a country in the area of combating racism, and while we recognize that this tragedy highlights law enforcement, we also recognize that such issues go far beyond the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, since the outbreak of COVID-19, immigrant and refugee community leaders and civil rights organizations have reported a regional and national increase in bias, harassment, and hate crimes, particularly against Asian American and Pacific Islander, Black and African American, Hispanic and Latino, and other marginalized communities; and

WHEREAS, conduct directed to inflict emotional, mental or physical harm against individuals because of their race, ethnicity, place of origin, physical ability, socio-economic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, age or religion, including the propagation of misinformation of COVID-19, has no place in our community and country; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mercer Island expressly rejects such conduct and acts; and

WHEREAS, each of us can and should promote inclusiveness, celebrate diversity, support all fellow community members, prevent the spread of misinformation, and reject hate and bias in all forms which will make Mercer Island a stronger and healthier community; and

WHEREAS, we ask community members who observe or are experiencing incidents of discrimination, harassment, or hate crimes to call 911 in emergency circumstances, and/or to report the incident to the Washington State Human Rights Commission (Toll-free 1-800-233-3247) or the King County Office of Civil Rights at (206) 684-4500;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Benson Wong, Mayor of the City of Mercer Island, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim:

Our continuing commitment to be an inclusive community that rejects stigma and bias against individuals because of race, ethnicity, place of origin, physical ability, socio-economic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, age or religion, and we urge all our members and residents of our community to treat each other with respect and work together to overcome all expressions of hate and bigotry.

APPROVED, this 9th day of June 2020


Benson Wong, Mayor

Proclamation No. 252