



City of Mercer Island, Washington *Proclamation*

WHEREAS, Mercer Island is a welcoming community and an exceptional place to live, learn, work, play, and raise a family; and disabled persons are our family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers who contribute meaningfully to the community.

Disability Pride Month is a time to celebrate disabled persons embracing their disabilities as part of their identity, being visible, and rejecting shame and internalized ableism.

Disability Pride is defined as accepting and honoring each person's uniqueness and seeing that as a natural and beneficial part of human diversity. Disability Pride is an integral part of inclusiveness and an important component in creating a place where everyone can share a sense of belonging.

Fifteen percent of the world's population is disabled across all races, ages, economic statuses, religions, and gender backgrounds. Youth and Family Services (YFS) staff support disabled Islanders and help them honor and embrace their identities and cope with experiences of marginalization.

In alignment with the July 1990 passing of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Disability Pride Month is celebrated every year in July.

This July, join YFS in honoring Islanders with disabilities, helping to end the stigma of disability, and creating a safe space for those with disabilities to celebrate and be celebrated for all their contributions to the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Salim Nice, Mayor of the City of Mercer Island, do hereby proclaim July 2024 as

DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH

APPROVED, this 16th day of July 2024

Mayor Salim Nice

Proclamation No. 340

