



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6617  
January 7, 2025  
Consent Agenda**

**AGENDA BILL INFORMATION**

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 6617: Rare Disease Day, Proclamation No. 353	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Approve Proclamation No. 353 Proclaiming February 28, 2025 as Rare Disease Day on Mercer Island.	

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	City Council
<b>STAFF:</b>	Salim Nice, Mayor Andrea Larson, City Clerk
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	n/a
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. Proclamation No. 353
<b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b>	n/a

<b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>	\$ n/a
<b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>	\$ n/a
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	\$ n/a

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this agenda bill is to proclaim February 28, 2025 as Rare Disease Day on Mercer Island, Proclamation No. 322 (Exhibit 1).

**BACKGROUND**

Currently, more than 25 million Americans are affected by rare diseases and with over 300 million people globally living with a rare disease. Nearly 11,000 rare diseases are characterized by a broad diversity of disorders and symptoms that vary not only from disease to disease, but also from patient to patient suffering from the same disease. Relatively common symptoms can hide underlying rare diseases leading to misdiagnosis and delaying treatment. Quintessentially disabling, the patient’s quality of life is affected by the lack or loss of autonomy due to the chronic, progressive, degenerative, and frequently life-threatening aspects of the disease.

The first Rare Disease Day was celebrated in 2008 on February 29, a “rare” date that happens only once every four years. Ever since, Rare Disease Day has taken place on the last day of February each year to raise awareness among the public and decision-makers about rare diseases and the impact on patients’ lives.

## **ISSUE/DISCUSSION**

The key message for Rare Disease Day 2025 is “More Than You Can Imagine.” Rare diseases affect people in all communities, across all borders. On February 28, community members are invited to express support, advocate for equitable access to diagnosis, treatment, care, and social opportunities for the over 300 million people living with a rare condition, including those living with rare diseases in the Mercer Island community. #RareDiseaseDay

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approve Proclamation No. 353 proclaiming February 28, 2025 as Rare Disease Day on Mercer Island.