



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

**AB 6222
February 21, 2023
Consent Agenda**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

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| TITLE: | AB 6222: Rare Disease Day Proclamation No. 301 | <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution |
| RECOMMENDED ACTION: | Proclaim February 28, 2023 Rare Disease Day in Mercer Island. | |

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| DEPARTMENT: | City Council |
| STAFF: | Salim Nice, Mayor Andrea Larson, City Clerk |
| COUNCIL LIAISON: | n/a |
| EXHIBITS: | 1. Proclamation No. 301 2. Newsletter Article Regarding Rare Disease |
| CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY: | n/a |

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| AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE | \$ n/a |
| AMOUNT BUDGETED | \$ n/a |
| APPROPRIATION REQUIRED | \$ n/a |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to proclaim February 28, 2023 as Rare Disease Day in Mercer Island, Proclamation No. 301 (Exhibit 1).

BACKGROUND

Currently, more than 25 million Americans are affected by rare diseases. 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 general public and decision-makers about rare diseases and the impact on patients’ lives.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

The theme for Rare Disease Day 2023 is Light Up for Rare. Rare diseases affect people in all communities. On February 28, community members are invited to light up in solidarity with over 300 million people living with a rare condition, including members of the Mercer Island community, and share our colors, #LightUpForRare. Exhibit 2 is a newsletter article about a Mercer Island family's experience with a rare disease and how their community service project led to the renovation of the Mercerdale Park Playground for inclusivity with equipment for various physical, social and sensory experiences.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Proclaim February 28, 2023 Rare Disease Day in Mercer Island.