



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 6979
September 1, 2026
Consent Agenda

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6979: National Recovery Month, Proclamation No. 393	☐ Discussion Only ☒ Action Needed: ☒ Motion ☐ Ordinance ☐ Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve Proclamation No. 393 proclaiming September 2026 as National Recovery Month on Mercer Island.	

DEPARTMENT:	Youth and Family Services
STAFF:	Mayor David Rosenbaum Derek Franklin, YFS Administrator
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Proclamation No. 393
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to proclaim September as National Recovery Month on Mercer Island with Proclamation No. 393 (Exhibit 1). Recognizing National Recovery Month each September raises awareness in the Mercer Island community that recovery from substance abuse and mental health conditions is possible for everyone and promotes prevention, intervention, and treatment on Mercer Island. The City's Department of Youth and Family Services provides low-barrier prevention, intervention, and treatment service to Mercer Island residents.

BACKGROUND

Mental health conditions and substance use disorders affect all communities nationwide, and [National Recovery Month](#) is celebrated in the U.S. each September to promote access to recovery, celebrate those participating in services, and educate the community to overcome the barriers of stigma and discrimination. Originally focused on recovery only from substances of abuse, over time National Recovery Month evolved to encompass mental health, recognizing the connection between these conditions.

Recovery Month advances the broader messages that behavioral health is essential to overall health and wellness and that prevention works, treatment is effective, and people do recover.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

The 2026 National Recovery Month operates under the unifying tagline: “Recovery is for Everyone: Every Person, Every Family, Every Community.” The observance reminds people in recovery and those who support them that recovery belongs to all of us and is a community effort. It reinforces the message that behavioral health is essential to overall health, prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can and do recover.

Nationally, over 50 million American adults are living in recovery from substance use disorders or mental health conditions. Over 9% of all U.S. adults state they have successfully resolved a significant past drug or alcohol problem. National Recovery Month honors the courage and strength of those facing mental illness and substance use conditions.

Every \$1 invested in evidence-based school and community substance abuse prevention programs yields an average of \$18 in societal savings. The City of Mercer Island invests in prevention, intervention and treatment programs for Mercer Island residents through its Department of Youth and Family Services (YFS). YFS provides community-wide substance abuse prevention and mental health promotion services via the Healthy Youth Initiative. YFS outpatient mental health counselors and school-based counselors provide low barrier mental health treatment and substance abuse intervention and referral for all City residents.

National Recovery Month reminds Mercer Island residents that while the social stigma about getting help for substance use or mental health issues is shrinking, that only about 20% of those meeting medical criteria for needing substance abuse treatment in the past year received any form of specialized care.

Mercer Island residents seeking mental health or substance use-related services or information, are encouraged to contact the YFS Department Confidential Intake Voicemail Line at (206) 275-7657 or learn more at www.mercerisland.gov/yfs and www.mihealthyyouth.com.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve Proclamation No. 393 proclaiming September 2026 as National Recovery Month on Mercer Island.