



## City of Mercer Island, Washington

# *Proclamation*

## STAFF APPRECIATION

**WHEREAS**, Washington State identified and treated the first case of COVID-19 in the United States in Snohomish County in February of 2020, marking the beginning of the United States COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic, and

**WHEREAS**, the United States has allocated unprecedented resources and suffered incalculable losses in the battle against COVID-19, and

**WHEREAS**, Municipal workers all across the United States, and particularly Mercer Island, have risen to the call to duty to protect its residents and provide continuity of government, and

**WHEREAS**, Municipal workers in Mercer Island are responsible for providing island residents' essential services through the city's current Public Works, Police, Fire, Youth & Family Services, City Attorney, Municipal Court, Finance, Community Planning & Development, and Administrative Services departments, and

**WHEREAS**, prior to the city's reorganization because of the Pandemic, municipal workers provided island residents' essential services through former departments such as the city's Parks and Recreation, Human Resources, and IGS, and

**WHEREAS**, Municipal workers in Mercer Island have shown remarkable individual resiliency and the ability to adjust to a changing and challenging work environment, and

**WHEREAS**, Municipal workers in Mercer Island have provided and continue to provide such essential services during this Pandemic for the benefit of the entire community, and

**WHEREAS**, the Pandemic-caused financial hardship to the City of Mercer led to the laying off of many municipal workers and to the reduction or elimination of certain services previously enjoyed by the community, and

**WHEREAS**, Municipal workers in Mercer Island, in addition to the Pandemic, responded to multiple landslides, structure fires, windstorms, and resulting power outages, and several snow events, and

**WHEREAS**, more than a year into the Pandemic, the City of Mercer Island is beginning the process of building back and restarting facilities and programs and restoring levels of services that were eliminated or reduced because of the Pandemic,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we, the City Council of Mercer Island, recognize the service and sacrifices of all Mercer Island municipal workers that have been with us during the Pandemic, and those who are no longer employed with us, and express appreciation for all of their dedicated service to this City. We encourage residents to express their gratitude to our municipal workers wherever and whenever they see them.

**APPROVED** this 4th day of May 2021.

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Mayor Benson Wong