



## City of Mercer Island, Washington

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, each year in the United States more than 15,780 children from birth to 19-years-old are diagnosed with cancer, equal to about 42 childhood cancer diagnoses each day; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately one in 285 children in the United States will be diagnosed with cancer before their twentieth birthday with this number increasing each year; and

**WHEREAS**, each year worldwide, there are more than 300,000 new childhood cancer diagnoses, equal to about every 3 minutes a family will hear the words 'Your child has cancer;' and

**WHEREAS**, although the five-year survival rate for childhood cancers has reached 84 percent, nearly 1,500 American children under the age of nineteen still die each year from cancer, making it the leading killer of children by disease; and

**WHEREAS**, two-thirds that do survive will face at least one chronic health condition later on in life – not limited to, but including – heart, liver, lung damage, infertility, secondary cancers, and growth deficits; and

**WHEREAS**, the causes of childhood cancer are largely unknown and more studies are needed to understand which treatments work best for children; and

**WHEREAS**, cancer treatment for children often must differ from traditional adult treatments to take into account children's developmental needs and other factors including more types/variances of childhood cancers than adult cancers; and

**WHEREAS**, there are hundreds of children being treated for cancer in Washington State with locations at Seattle Children's Hospital (Seattle), Mary Bridge Hospital (Tacoma), and Shriners Hospitals for Children (Spokane).

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Benson Wong, Mayor of the City of Mercer Island, do hereby proclaim September 2021 as **CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH** in the City of Mercer Island.



**APPROVED** this 31<sup>st</sup> day of August 2021

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Mayor Benson Wong