



The City of Mercer Island, Washington

# Proclamation

## MERCER ISLAND AND THONON-LES-BAINS SISTER CITY 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**WHEREAS**, on July 8, 2000, at the 2000 Mercer Island Summer Celebration, the Mayors of Mercer Island, Washington and Thonon-les-Bains, France forged a firm and lasting friendship by adopting a resolution establishing a Sister City relationship; and,

**WHEREAS**, the year 2020 marks the twentieth anniversary of the Mercer Island-Thonon Sister City relationship; and,

**WHEREAS**, from the beginning, the two cities acknowledged their many common attributes including their tradition of democratic government, physical settings adjacent to large and beautiful freshwater lakes, mountains and major world-class metropolitan cities; citizens dedicated to caring for their children, their schools, their homes, and their businesses; beautiful communities each having strong commitments to parks, gardens, visual and performing arts and public gathering places; and,

**WHEREAS**, since 2000, the sister city relationship has spawned many student exchanges between our cities, facilitated a 2005 art exchange of priceless 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century French lithographs exhibited at the newly-opened Community Center at Mercer View, and facilitated various other exchanges; and,

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Mercer Island, Washington and Thonon-les-Bains, France have demonstrated their commitment to learning about the people, culture, history and commerce of each other's city as well as other cities around the world; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor will lead a delegation to Thonon-les-Bains, France from February 3-7, 2020 to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the sister city relationship;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Benson Wong, Mayor of the City of Mercer Island, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim the week of February 3-7, 2020 as

## MERCER ISLAND AND THONON-LES-BAINS SISTER CITY 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY APPRECIATION WEEK

in Mercer Island. The City of Mercer Island pledges its continued friendship, respect, and commitment to maintaining a long-lasting and productive sister city relationship.

**APPROVED**, this 21st day of January 2020

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Benson Wong, Mayor

