

CITY OF SEQUIM PROCLAMATION

The Year of Kindness 2021

WHEREAS, 2020 was a year in which a global pandemic took hold, and pandemic response restricted typical activities and travel, and closed businesses, which widened existing social inequality and disproportionately affected disadvantaged people; and

WHEREAS, racial and equality tensions further escalated due to a series of tragic deaths and events nationally that prompted social unrest; and

WHEREAS, the use of technology for social interaction expanded during the pandemic as in-person gatherings were restricted, accelerating the depersonalizing impact of such technology on society; and

WHEREAS, 2020 was also a presidential election year and political polarization in the United States was at one of its highest levels on record leading up to the election; and

WHEREAS, in Sequim, further community polarization dating back to mid-2019 occurred due to the public's reaction to a Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Center planned by the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe; and

WHEREAS, kindness is defined by Merriam-Webster dictionary as: 1) the quality or state of being kind; and 2) a kind deed, while kind is defined as: 1) of a sympathetic or helpful nature; 2) of a forbearing nature; and 3) arising from or characterized by sympathy or forbearance; and

WHEREAS, it is important to evaluate the actions of people separate from the person, recognizing that every person deserves kindness; and

WHEREAS, each human life exists for a small amount of time, yet the impacts of human actions or inactions can have impacts for generations; and

WHEREAS, we can improve our community through one act of kindness at a time, regardless of how large or small, starting with forgiveness for fellow community members with which we disagreed, sometimes strongly, in recent times; and

WHEREAS, fostering kindness can bring about reconciliation, benefitting the city we all love, the lives of our family, friends and neighbors, those of future generations, and our own lives;

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEQUIM, WASHINGTON, DOES HEREBY PROCLAIM the year of 2021 as

The Year of Kindness

in the City of Sequim and directs City staff and encourages community members, businesses and nonprofits to initiate a series of activities in support of kind actions. The City Council rededicates itself to kindness in the City's actions and asks Sequim citizens to further their practice of kindness in the coming year, reigniting our sense of community.

Proclaimed and presented by the Mayor of the City of Sequim on this 14th day of December 2020.

William Armacost, Mayor