



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
**City Manager's Office**  
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3001  
[www.ci.kirkland.wa.us](http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us)

---

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** David Ramsay, City Manager

**From:** Marie Stake, Communications Program Manager

**Date:** May 13, 2008

**Subject:** Lee Johnson Day Proclamation

### RECOMMENDATION:

Council authorizes the Mayor to sign the Lee Johnson Day Proclamation.

### BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

At the March 18 City Council meeting, Ms. Tracie Stone requested that the City Council formally recognize Lee Johnson Chevrolet for its upcoming 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and for the many contributions the company and members of the Lee Johnson family have made to the Kirkland community. The attached proclamation declares May 23, 2008 as "Lee Johnson Day" in the City of Kirkland and identifies some of the major contributions – especially to those that have enhanced Peter Kirk Park and surrounding areas.

The Lee Johnson family has a legacy of supporting public-private partnerships that support sports, arts and youth. The list of aid, gifts and donations made over many decades is extensive.

In addition to the City's proclamation, the Kirkland Downtown Association and Greater Kirkland Chamber of Commerce will formally recognize Lee Johnson Chevrolet. Family members Mrs. Ginny Johnson and her sons, Tod and Brett, will be present to accept the proclamation. It is anticipated that the new scoreboard, made possible by the \$39,000 endowment from Lee Johnson Chevrolet, should be installed late May/early June.



## A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

---

### Designating May 23, 2008 as “Lee Johnson Day” in the City of Kirkland, Washington

**WHEREAS**, Leroy M. Johnson, LeRoy E. Johnson and The Lee Johnson Auto Family have had longstanding community legacy of public and private support of local youth sports and the arts;

**WHEREAS**, On May 23, 1933, LeRoy E. “Lee” Johnson partnered with Renton auto dealers Hayden Williams and John Swanson to purchase Hart Chevrolet to start Eastside Motor Company which later became Lee Johnson Chevrolet and has sustained itself as a viable business for 75 years in the Kirkland community; and

**WHEREAS**, the dealership was originally located on the corner of Lake Washington Boulevard and Kirkland Avenue, had three employees and sold six cars in its charter year and is now located on NE 85<sup>th</sup> Street, employs over 150 staff and averages around 300 vehicle sales per month;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Kirkland, residents, schools, businesses and visitors have benefited from the numerous contributions from the Lee Johnson Auto Family spanning many decades; and

**WHEREAS**, major contributions from the Lee Johnson family and the Lee Johnson Auto Family to the City of Kirkland for Peter Kirk Park include funding for the swimming pool in 1967, funding for the Kirkland Performance Center in 1998, the purchase of “The Natural” sculpture in 2001, and a 2008 endowment toward a new scoreboard for Lee Johnson Field; and

**WHEREAS**, Lee Johnson Chevrolet supported fundraising for the playground at the City’s North Rose Hill Woodlands Park and is a well-known community event sponsor and has supported the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and Picnic, the Kirkland Classic Car Show and Kirkland Concours d’ Elegance; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, James L. Lauinger, Mayor of the City of Kirkland, do hereby proclaim May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008, as *Lee Johnson Day* in Kirkland, Washington and urge all the citizens of Kirkland to honor the 75 years of community commitment to Kirkland’s past and future.

Signed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2008

---

James L. Lauinger, Mayor