



CITY OF KIRKLAND
City Manager's Office
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager
From: Erika Mascorro, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Manager
Date: January 5, 2023
Subject: National Day of Racial Healing Proclamation

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Mayor proclaim January 17th as the Day of Racial Healing in the City of Kirkland.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

The National Day of Racial Healing was established on January 17, 2017, by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and is observed every year on the Tuesday following Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. It is a time for communities to come together and take collaborative action on how to heal from the impacts of racism.

The annual observance is hosted by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and was created with and builds on the work and learnings of the Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation community partners. Fundamental to this day is a clear understanding that racial healing is at the core of racial equity. It is an opportunity to bring all people together in their common humanity and to inspire collective action to create a more just and equitable world.

The tragic killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer in May of 2020, and the death of many other Black people and other people of color, were important reminders of racism and inequality that persists in society. They are also reminders that we have much healing to address in our hearts as individuals and all together as a society. In our community to support this healing, [Eastside For All](#) is hosting a free virtual event called Models and Tools for Racial Healing, Justice, and Equity, on Wednesday, January 18 from 6 to 7 p.m. in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day and the National Day of Racial Healing. The event will highlight national and local resources that foster deep learning and inspired actions for individuals, schools, organizations, and neighborhoods. Community members can find out which ones resonate and get involved by [registering here](#).

This proclamation supports Kirkland's Resolutions [R-5240](#) and R-5434. Reflecting on and acknowledging past injustices can help people move forward together and can assist in making Kirkland a more safe, inclusive, and welcoming place where everyone belongs. On August 4, 2020, the City of Kirkland passed legislation (R-5434) committing to several actions related to ensuring the safety and respect of Black people and examining and dismantling institutional and

structural racism in Kirkland. Since that time, staff across various departments has undertaken several actions through the [Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Roadmap](#) called for in R-5434. Community members are encouraged to visit the [City's R-5434 webpage](#) for background information and current status of the various initiatives, programs, and policies related to this work.

Receiving the proclamation: Kalika Curry of Pono Pursuit, LLC, past Kirkland resident and community activist for Black and people of color as a leadership member of the Right to Breathe Committee.



A Proclamation of the City of Kirkland

Proclaiming January 17, 2023, as “Day of Racial Healing” in Kirkland

WHEREAS, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation supports thriving children, working families and equitable communities, and helped to create the first National Day of Racial Healing in 2017 to further its work and create collective change; and

WHEREAS, acknowledgment of past injustices help bring people together around a shared understanding of the ongoing issue of structural racism in order to heal as a community, and, although not a comprehensive list, the City has identified the following examples that highlight the history of interpersonal, institutional, and structural racism in the Pacific Northwest; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Salish Sea region lies on the unceded and ancestral land of the Coast Salish peoples, the Duwamish, Muckleshoot, Puyallup, Skykomish, Snoqualmie, Snohomish, Suquamish and Tulalip tribes and other tribes of the Puget Sound Salish people, and present-day City of Kirkland is in the traditional heartland of the Lake People and the River People, who were not alone in being the target of policies and practices by the United States government, its representatives, and the majority of local early settlers to be systematically dispossessed of ancestral homes to make way for white settlers; and

WHEREAS, structural and institutional anti-Black racism was present in the Pacific Northwest, then part of the Oregon Territory, through the adoption of Black exclusion laws in the mid-1800s that prohibited Black people from living in the territory for more than three years and which bore the consequence of 39 lashes, every six months, until they left; and

WHEREAS, approximately 7,390 Americans of Japanese descent from Western Washington and Alaska were forcibly relocated and incarcerated in concentration camps during World War II, an action that was admitted by the U.S. government in 1988 to have been based on "race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership"; and

WHEREAS, at least three Kirkland-area housing subdivisions are known to have been racially restricted through property deed provisions or restrictive covenants put in place between 1930 and 1947, which restricted the right of ownership, occupancy, conveyance and/or rental for "only those of the Caucasian race"; and

WHEREAS, reminders of racism and inequality persists in our society with the tragic killing of George Floyd by a police officer on May 25, 2020 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the death of many other Black people and people of color; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kirkland passed Resolution R-5434 to ensure the safety and respect of Black people, adopted Resolution R-5240 declaring Kirkland a Safe, Inclusive and Welcoming Community for all people, and as a result of both resolutions has taken many budgetary and policy actions to make progress towards this goal recognizing there is still much more to be done to achieve equity, justice, and inclusion for everyone to create a community that is committed to examining and dismantling interpersonal, institutional and structural racism in Kirkland; and

WHEREAS, the City understands and recognizes that there is a racial divide in our country that we all must work on bridging in order to help heal the wounds created by historical and current racial, ethnic, and religious bias; and

WHEREAS, every person has the capability to make changes within themselves through reflection, learning, and conversations about race that can collectively have a profound effect on our entire society; and

WHEREAS, dedicating ourselves to the principles of truth, racial healing, and transformation can help bring about the necessary shifts in thinking and behavior that will create a community and country where racial biases and structural racism will no longer plague our society; and

WHEREAS, racial healing is a vital and crucial commitment to the health, safety, and economic well-being of all people; and

WHEREAS, in our community to support this healing, Eastside for All, community partner is hosting a free virtual event called Models and Tools for Racial Healing, Justice, and Equity;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Penny Sweet, on behalf of the City Council, join the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and other communities across the nation and proclaim the Tuesday following Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as the Day of Racial Healing in Kirkland and call upon the people of Kirkland, Washington to promote racial healing and transformation in ways best suited for them individually as a means to work together to ensure a more just and equitable world.

Signed this 17th day of January 2023

Penny Sweet, Mayor

