



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
**City Manager's Office**  
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## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager  
**From:** David Wolbrecht, Senior Neighborhood Services Coordinator  
**Date:** March 9, 2021  
**Subject:** National Safe Place Week Proclamation

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Mayor proclaim the week of March 21 through March 27, 2021 as National Safe Place Week in the City of Kirkland.

### **BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:**

National Safe Place is a nationwide youth outreach and prevention program implemented in communities across the United States to create a network of locations equipped to serve youth in need that are age 12 through 17, providing immediate help, crisis intervention, safety and emergency shelter and connections to ongoing supportive services.

Safe Place has ensured cohesion and ease of use by establishing a universal diamond-shaped black and yellow sign. The vivid, easily distinguishable emblem serves as a beacon to youth in need, affording them instant knowledge that any facility that displays the Safe Place sign is a place where they can receive help and be connected to community resources or emergency shelter.



In 2012, Friends of Youth, a nonprofit organization that strives to care for at-risk teens, homeless youth and young people in need of assistance, sought a collaborative approach to fill a critical need. Friends of Youth joined forces with Seattle-based nonprofit YouthCare to expand the King County Safe Place program to provide immediate help and safety to an increased number of King County youth in crisis. King County is home to over 2,100 Safe Place locations, each of which has participated in training to earn its designation as an official Safe Place location. Kirkland Safe Place locations include Friends of Youth, Holy Family Parish Center, Lake Washington Christian Church, North Kirkland Community Center, Peter Kirk Community Center, Eastside Foursquare Church, Evergreen Health Emergency Department, Kirkland Library, Kingsgate Library, and every King County Metro bus.

Safe Place has a safe-call system in which a youth in need can call 1-800-422-TEEN (8336) or simply text "SAFE". The system will provide instant data on the nearest Safe Place site based on the youth's current location. COVID hasn't impacted the program when youth call the hotline. However, the program is currently limiting in-person responses to daytime services only.

By proclaiming the March 21 through March 27, 2021 as National Safe Place Week in the City of Kirkland, all community members are invited to connect the youth in their lives with any resources they need to ensure their safety and respect.



# A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

## Recognizing the Week of March 21 through March 27, 2021 as National Safe Place Week in the City of Kirkland

**WHEREAS**, National Safe Place is a nationwide youth outreach and prevention program implemented in communities across the United States to create a network of locations equipped to serve youth in need that are age 12 through 17, providing immediate help, crisis intervention, safety and emergency shelter and connections to ongoing supportive services; and

**WHEREAS**, Safe Place has ensured cohesion and ease of use by establishing a universal diamond-shaped black and yellow sign, the vivid, easily distinguishable emblem serving as a beacon to youth in need, affording them instant knowledge that any facility that displays the Safe Place sign is a place where they can receive help and be connected to community resources or emergency shelter; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2012, Friends of Youth, a nonprofit organization that strives to care for at-risk teens, homeless youth and young people in need of assistance, sought a collaborative approach to fill a critical need and joined forces with Seattle-based nonprofit YouthCare to expand the King County Safe Place program and provide immediate help and safety to an increased number of King County youth in crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, King County is home to over 2,100 Safe Place locations, each of which has participated in training to earn its designation as an official Safe Place location; and

**WHEREAS**, Kirkland has several Safe Place locations, including at Friends of Youth, Holy Family Parish Center, Lake Washington Christian Church, North Kirkland Community Center, Peter Kirk Community Center, Eastside Foursquare Church, Evergreen Health Emergency Department, Kirkland Library, Kingsgate Library, and every King County Metro bus; and

**WHEREAS**, Safe Place has embraced technology implementing a safe-call system in which a youth in need can call 1-800-422-TEEN (8336) or simply text "SAFE" and a current location to receive instant data on the nearest Safe Place site; and

**WHEREAS**, Recognitions like National Safe Place Week raise important awareness of this vital program, building capacity within the existing framework by encouraging more businesses and nonprofits to become Safe Place locations, allowing the program to serve more youth in crisis; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Penny Sweet, Mayor of Kirkland, on behalf of the Kirkland City Council, do hereby proclaim the week of March 21 through March 27, 2021 as National Safe Place Week, and with this proclamation extend our sincere gratitude to Friends of Youth and the Safe Place Program, for their important work to ensure the safety of our youth.

Signed this 16th day of March 2021

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Penny Sweet, Mayor