



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Police Department
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager
From: Cherie Harris, Chief of Police
Date: May 10, 2021
Subject: National Police Week Proclamation

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Mayor proclaim May 9-15, 2021 as National Police Week.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

National Police Week is an annual week-long celebration of the professionalism, dedication and courage exhibited by Police Officers as they serve their communities and preserve the rights and freedoms of all people. Peace Officer Memorial Day, May 15th, specifically honors all police officers, especially those who have lost their lives in the line of duty, with the lowering of flags to half staff on all government buildings.

Congress, on June 21, 1961, by Senate Joint Resolution 75 Stat. 94, designated the week beginning May 13, 1962 as "National Police Week" and authorized the President to issue an appropriate proclamation. On April 10, 1962, President John Kennedy signed a proclamation creating "National Police Week" which would fall on the calendar week in which May 15th, proclaimed Peace Officer Memorial Day, fell each year. Each year since then, the President of the United States proclaims the calendar week in which May 15th falls as National Police Week, dedicated to recognizing the valuable contributions to public safety made by Police Officers.

The City of Kirkland currently employs 109 commissioned Police Officers at the Kirkland Police Department within the Kirkland Justice Center. These dedicated men and women serve those who live, work and play in Kirkland and contribute to making Kirkland a safe and welcoming city by performing their duties according to the department's mission "to protect and serve our community with honor, integrity and courage."

The core values of honor, integrity and courage have been particularly highlighted throughout 2020 and into 2021 as the world has been affected by the Covid-19 virus. According to the preliminary data compiled by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, as of December 31, 2020, 264 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty across the United States. This was an increase of 96% over the previous year when 135 officers were killed. Covid-19 proved to be the deadliest threat to officers, followed by firearms-related deaths, traffic-related fatalities, and other health issues related to the stress of the job of law enforcement. In Washington state, there were five law enforcement line-of-duty deaths. Two

succumbed to the effects of Covid-19, one drowned, one died by gunfire and one was killed during a vehicle pursuit.

The Kirkland Police Department enacted health and safety measures and protocols as officers donned protective gear and courageously continued to provide high quality service to the community amidst the pandemic. Officers were conscientious in their interactions with the public, practiced social distancing and strove to minimize potential exposure events as they responded to calls for service and engaged in proactive policing.

The year 2020 also brought about a national reckoning regarding racial injustice. A series of high-profile incidents of police violence against Black Americans sparked nationwide protests and public condemnations of systemic racism. Law enforcement agencies around the country are under heightened public scrutiny and are looking inward to address use of force and institutional racism.

To support this work, the City of Kirkland passed legislation (R-5434) on August 4, 2020 committing to several actions related to examining and dismantling institutional and structural racism in Kirkland. The Kirkland Police Department has been actively engaged in important community conversations and in thorough examination of its culture, policies, programs, and practices. This work is intended to ensure the safety and respect of Black people in Kirkland.

By proclaiming the week of May 9-15, 2021, National Police Week, all Kirkland residents and businesses will be encouraged to recognize and thank all Police Officers for their courage, service and dedication during this week and throughout the year.

Attachment A: National Police Week Proclamation



A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Proclaiming May 9-15, 2021 as "National Police Week" in Kirkland

WHEREAS, the professionalism, courage and dedication of Police Officers are deserving of recognition for their valuable role in public safety and preserving the rights and freedoms of all people; and

WHEREAS, on June 21, 1961 Congress designated the week in which May 15 falls as "National Police Week" and authorized the President to issue an appropriate proclamation; and

WHEREAS, on April 10, 1962 President John Kennedy signed a proclamation creating "National Police Week" which would fall in the calendar week containing May 15 each year; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States proclaims May 15 each year to be National Peace Officer Memorial Day; and

WHEREAS, National Police Week honors the service and sacrifice of those law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty while protecting our communities and safeguarding our democracy; and

WHEREAS, we honor the five law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty in Washington State in 2020 and grieve for their families' loss;

WHEREAS, National Police Week in the City of Kirkland recognizes the 109 highly trained, dedicated and courageous commissioned men and women of the Kirkland Police Department who serve as Police Officers to protect and serve our community; enduring long shifts in unpredictable circumstances and selflessly placing themselves in harm's way to keep us safe, while always working to build partnerships and community trust;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Penny Sweet, Mayor of Kirkland, Washington, proclaim the week of May 9-15, 2021 as National Police Week in Kirkland and call upon the people of Kirkland to express their gratitude and appreciation for the professionalism, courage, and dedication to public safety by Police Officers.

Signed this 18th day of May 2021

Penny Sweet, Mayor