



CITY OF KIRKLAND
City Manager's Office
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3001
www.kirklandwa.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager
From: Chelsea Zibolsky, Special Projects Coordinator
Date: January 7, 2021
Subject: Day of Racial Healing Proclamation

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Mayor proclaim January 19, 2021 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 subsequent marches and protests for social justice of the past year, were important reminders of racism and inequality that persist in society. On August 4, 2020, the City of Kirkland passed legislation (R-5434) affirming that Black lives matter and that Kirkland will create a community where Black people feel safe and respected. The City committed to centering Black experiences in the community engagement process called for in R-5434 and strives to create authentic spaces for people to share their lived experiences and inform the City's work of dismantling institutional and structural racism within Kirkland.

By proclaiming January 19, 2021, the Day of Racial Healing, all Kirkland residents are encouraged to share in collaborative community discussion on how to heal from the impacts of racism. The City is sponsoring a series of Kirkland Talks community dialogue events about racism throughout 2021, the first of which will be held in late February. Information on this

event, as well as future opportunities to engage in community conversations about race, will be posted to the [City's webpage](#)¹ when event information is finalized.

Proposed 2021 Safe, Inclusive, and Welcoming Proclamations Schedule

Informed by the work of the 2019/2020 Welcoming Kirkland Initiative and staff involvement in the Governing for Racial Equity and Inclusion group, staff in the City Manager's Office began drafting a 2020 "Safe, Inclusive, and Welcoming Proclamations" schedule that was intended to be brought to Council for review and approval. Unfortunately, that work was cut short due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020.

While researching and drafting the proclamation for the Day of Racial Healing, staff took the opportunity to build on the prior work done in 2020 in order to proactively develop a proposed schedule of 2021 proclamations related to the City's efforts at being safe, inclusive, and welcoming for Council's consideration (Attachment B). Attachment B consists of a proposed schedule of such proclamations throughout 2021, including brief background information about each and whether each has been proclaimed in Kirkland in prior years. Staff consulted various sources for inspiration, including the list of Presidential Proclamations and King County Proclamations. This initial schedule is intended to focus on proclamations related to race, ethnicity, and other categories of intersectional identity and is not intended to encompass all potential proclamations related to human services or other programs that contribute to being a safe, inclusive, and welcoming community. Additional proclamations of that nature will be included in a later list under development by staff for Council consideration.

Staff will incorporate Council feedback about the proposed schedule as well as community feedback before returning to the February 2, 2021 Council meeting for Council approval of the 2021 Safe, Inclusive, and Welcoming Proclamations schedule.

¹ <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/City-Managers-Office/Ensuring-the-Safety-and-Respect-of-Black-People>



A Proclamation of the City of Kirkland

Proclaiming January 19, 2021 as "Day of Racial Healing" in Kirkland

WHEREAS, on February 21, 2017 the City Council adopted Resolution R-5240 declaring Kirkland a Safe, Inclusive and Welcoming Community for all people; and

WHEREAS, since adopting R-5240, the City has taken many budgetary and policy actions to make progress towards this goal but recognizes there is still much more to be done to achieve equity, justice, and inclusion for everyone; and

WHEREAS, acknowledgment of past injustices can 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 important examples that highlight the history of interpersonal, institutional, and structural racism in the Pacific Northwest; and

WHEREAS, the present-day City of Kirkland inhabits the traditional land of the Coast Salish First People, the Duwamish (dxʷdəwʔabš), one of several tribal signatories to the Treaty of Point Elliott in 1855, but which is not a federally-acknowledged tribe and which was 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, racism and inequality persists in our society today and, since the tragic killing of George Floyd by a police officer on May 25, 2020 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, there have been dozens of protests, marches and rallies in Kirkland calling for an end to structural racism and for the City of Kirkland to demonstrate that Black Lives Matter; and

WHEREAS, on August 4, 2020, the City of Kirkland passed Resolution R-5434 to ensure the safety and respect of Black people and 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, 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;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Penny Sweet, Mayor of Kirkland, Washington 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 19th day of January, 2021

Penny Sweet, Mayor

Proposed Schedule of 2021 Proclamations Supporting a Safe, Inclusive, and Welcoming Community

Date	Acknowledgement	Notes	Current Kirkland Proclamation?
JANUARY			
18 th of January	MLK Jr. Day of Service	The Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Jan. 18, 2021, is the 26th anniversary of the day of service that celebrates the Civil Rights leader's life and legacy. Observed each year on the third Monday in January as "a day on, not a day off," MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. AmeriCorps has been charged to lead this effort for the last quarter century.	Yes
19 th of January	National Acknowledgement of Racial Healing	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.	Yes. First Proclamation in 2021.
FEBRUARY			
All Month	Black History Month	Founded in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, to encourage the study and preservation of African American history. Black History Month is an important opportunity to acknowledge that Black History is American history, and to honor the accomplishments of influential African Americans.	Yes
MARCH			
All Month	Women's History Month	The first Presidential Proclamation for Women's History Month occurred in 1988. Women's History Month highlights the contributions of women of all races, ethnicities, religious affiliations, and sexual orientations to events in history and contemporary society.	No
APRIL			
TBD	YWCA Stand Against Racism Day	Stand Against Racism Day aims to create safe spaces for hard conversations that compel change. Hoping to build an inclusive, welcoming community through collaboration, education and discussion.	Yes
All Month	Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)	In Washington State, 45% of women and 22% of men report having experienced sexual violence in their lifetime. The risk is even higher for people of color, refugees, immigrants, LGBTQ and other marginalized community members. SAAM is a time to raise public awareness on this issue.	Yes
All Month	Celebrate Diversity Month	Celebrate Diversity Month honors and celebrates other cultures and populations and encourages residents to	No

		take time to recognize the diversity in their workplace, school, home and communities.	
MAY			
All Month	National Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month	Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month recognizes the contributions and influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States.	No
All Month	Older Americans Month	Every May, the Administration for Community Living, part of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, leads our nation's observance of Older Americans Month. The theme for 2021 is "Communities of Strength." Building on this theme, this will focus on the power of connection and engagement in building strong communities for older members of all races, ethnicities, religious affiliations and sexual orientation.	No
JUNE			
All Month	Pride	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month (LGBT Pride Month) is celebrated annually in June to honor the 1969 Stonewall riots, and works to achieve equal justice and equal opportunity for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) Americans. Staff recommend expanding the related acronym to LGBTQIA+ to be as inclusive as possible.	Yes
19 th of June	Juneteenth	Juneteenth celebrates the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States.	Yes
26 th of July	Americans with Disabilities Act Signed "Disability Independence Day"	National Disability Independence Day commemorates the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA was signed into law on July 26, 1990, opening the door and breaking down barriers faced every day by individuals with disabilities of all races, ethnicities, religious affiliations and sexual orientations.	No
AUGUST			
SEPTEMBER			
September 15 through October 15	National Hispanic Heritage Month	National Hispanic Heritage Month recognizes the contributions and influence of Hispanic Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States.	Yes
OCTOBER			
11 th of October	Indigenous Peoples' Day	Indigenous Peoples' Day is a holiday that celebrates and honors Native American peoples and is an official city and state holiday in various localities. As an alternative naming of the U.S. federal holiday of Columbus Day, which honors Italian explorer Christopher Columbus, Indigenous Peoples' Day recognizes that Native people are the first inhabitants of the Americas and commemorates their histories and cultures.	No

NOVEMBER			
20 th of November	Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR)	TDOR is an annual observance on November 20 that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. It is a day to hold vigil for those lost and advocate for transgender rights.	No
27 th of November	Native American Heritage Day	In 2009 President Barack Obama signs “The Native American Heritage Day Resolution,” making the Friday immediately following the fourth Thursday in November as Native American Heritage Day. Staff recommend adopting this proclamation in accordance with <u>RCW 1.16.050</u> which states, “the Friday immediately following the fourth Thursday in November, to be known as Native American Heritage Day.”	No
DECEMBER			
10 th of December Or All Month	International Human Rights Day Or Universal Human Rights Month	Human Rights Day on December 10 remembers the day the General Assembly of the UN adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. It is the most translated document around the world and is available in over 500 languages. It has inspired countries and people alike to start treating every person with the right to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness. This month is a reminder that the United Nations General Assembly codified the basic human rights of every person. It’s also a time to reflect on the way we treat others, and to do what we can in the fight for equality.	No