MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, an accurate census count is vital to our community and residents’ well-being by helping planners determine where to locate schools, daycare centers, roads and public transportation, hospitals and other facilities, and is used to make decisions concerning business growth and housing needs;

WHEREAS, more than $400 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to states and communities based on census data;

WHEREAS, census data ensure fair Congressional representation by determining how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as the redistricting of state legislatures, county and city councils and voting districts;

WHEREAS, the 2010 Census creates jobs that stimulate economic growth and increase employment opportunities in our community;

WHEREAS, the information collected by the census is protected by law and remains confidential for 72 years;

NOW, THEREFORE, DO I, Dan Pike, Mayor, hereby proclaim that the City of Bellingham is committed to partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau to help ensure a full and accurate count in 2010.

As a 2010 Census partner we will:

1) Support the goals and ideals for the 2010 Census and disseminate 2010 Census information to encourage those in our community to participate.
2) Encourage people in Bellingham to place an emphasis on the 2010 Census and participate in events and initiatives that raise awareness and ensure a full and accurate census.
3) Support census takers as they help our community complete an accurate count.
4) Create or seek opportunities to collaborate with other like-minded groups in our community, such as Complete Count Committees, to utilize high-profile, trusted voices to advocate on behalf of the 2010 Census.

Signed this 13th day of November 2009.

[Signature]
Dan Pike, Mayor
City of Bellingham