



CITY OF BELLINGHAM
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
DAN PIKE

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Mitochondrial diseases result from failures of the mitochondria, specialized compartments present in every cell of the body except red blood cells; and

WHEREAS, Mitochondria are responsible for creating more than 90% of the energy needed by the body to sustain life and support growth; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that more than one in 4,000 children born in the United States each year will develop a mitochondrial disease by 10 years of age; and

WHEREAS, Diseases of the mitochondria appear to cause the most damage to cells of the brain, heart, liver, skeletal muscles, kidney and the endocrine and respiratory systems; and

WHEREAS, Depending on which cells are affected, symptoms may include loss of motor control, muscle weakness and pain, gastro-intestinal disorders and swallowing difficulties, poor growth, cardiac disease, liver disease, diabetes, respiratory complications, seizures, visual/hearing problems, lactic acidosis, developmental delays and susceptibility to infection; and

WHEREAS, Currently no cures or effective therapies exist, but early diagnosis can help patients and their families use proper medication and nutritional supplements to improve the quality of life, and even prolong life; and

WHEREAS, Through public awareness, the City of Bellingham seeks to minimize the devastating effects of the illness among all Bellingham citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, DO I, Dan Pike, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, proclaim the week of September 14th – 20, 2008 to be

MITOCHONDRIAL DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK

in the City of Bellingham, Washington.

Signed this ____ day of July 2008.

Dan Pike, Mayor
City of Bellingham