

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-15

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLYMPIC PIPELINE EXPLOSION AND SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF JUNE 10TH AS NATIONAL PIPELINE SAFETY DAY

WHEREAS, on June 10, 1999, a pipeline ruptured in Bellingham, releasing approximately 237,000 gallons of unleaded gasoline into Whatcom Creek in Whatcom Falls Park; and

WHEREAS, the gasoline ignited and exploded causing the deaths of two young boys and a young man who were beloved residents of this community; and

WHEREAS, the explosion burned approximately 26 acres of trees and meadows, and killed all aquatic life in three miles of Whatcom Creek; and

WHEREAS, after 10 years of intense restoration actions, ecosystems associated with Whatcom Creek are finally beginning to recover; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 2 million miles of hazardous pipelines carrying dangerous liquids in the United States; and

WHEREAS, numerous citizens and agencies came together to press the federal government to pass legislation to prevent such a tragic event from happening in any other community, resulting in the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 and the Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement and Safety Act of 2006 ; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Rick Larsen has introduced a resolution into the US House of Representatives to designate June 10TH as "National Pipeline Safety Day";

WHEREAS, a "National Pipeline Safety Day can create awareness of pipeline safety by individuals, local governments and businesses nationwide; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM:

1. Recognizes the 10-year anniversary of the Olympic Pipeline explosion in Whatcom Falls Park.
2. Supports the designation of June 10th, as National Pipeline Safety Day.
3. Encourages all local governments to observe and honor this day with activities to increase awareness and promote pipeline safety.

PASSED by the Council this 1st day of June, 2009.



Council President

APPROVED by me this 6th day of June, 2009.

David V. Alb
Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Jean Hoisington
Office of the City Attorney