

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-04

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON TO SUPPORT EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND REALIZE BENEFITS COST SAVINGS BY RE-LAUNCHING A WELLNESS PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bellingham (City) recognizes that employee health is related to lifestyle decisions and many illnesses and injuries can be prevented by positive individual health practices, and

**WHEREAS**, the City further recognizes that improvement to employee health, achievable through active workplace health promotion programs and activities, can result in better morale, reduced absenteeism, and enhanced productivity and performance in serving the citizens of Bellingham, and

**WHEREAS**, the City is committed to retaining and supporting employees as a means of achieving its long-term legacy of quality, responsive services, and

**WHEREAS**, the City eliminated funding in the past for employee wellness initiatives due to:

- Changing from a self-insured medical plan to an insurance plan in 2002
- City-wide budget reductions in 2009

**WHEREAS**, the City now has the opportunity to significantly reduce employee benefits costs by supporting active workplace health promotion programs and activities through the AWC WellCity Award program, and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bellingham is re-launching a City Employee Wellness Program aimed at preventing illnesses and injuries and promoting better morale, reduced absenteeism, and enhanced productivity and performance among City employees, and

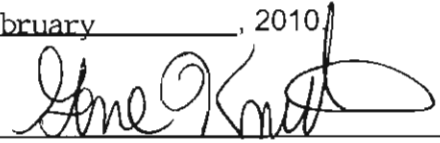
**WHEREAS**, the City of Bellingham will strive to qualify and apply for the WellCity Award through with the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) starting in 2010. The award will provide a 2% premium discount on Regence BlueShield/Asuris Northwest Health medical premiums for employees and spouses starting in 2012. The City of Bellingham acknowledges the criteria set forth by AWC must be met to be eligible for the premium discount.

City of Bellingham  
City Attorney  
210 Lottie Street  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
360-778-8270

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BELLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL:**

That the Council supports the re-launching of an City Employee Wellness Program to accomplish the employee health, safety, productivity and performance goals described above and to realize the benefits costs savings offered by the Association of Washington Cities.

**PASSED** by the Council this 8th day of February, 2010

  
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Council President

**APPROVED** by me this 11th day of February, 2010.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**   
for Finance Director

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Office of the City Attorney

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City Attorney  
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