

**RESOLUTION HONORING LOUISE BJORNSON FOR HER PUBLIC SERVICE**

**WHEREAS**, after first serving on the Bellingham Planning Commission for five years, Council Member Louise Bjornson was elected to serve as Bellingham City Council Representative for the At-Large Position in 1988. Re-elected eleven times, she served the citizens of Bellingham on the City Council for 22 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Council Member Louise Bjornson has been re-elected more times and is the longest serving Council Member in the City's history; and

**WHEREAS**, Louise has served on numerous Council committees over the years. She currently chairs the Public Works/Public Safety Committee and is a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Planning & Community Development Committee. In addition, she has several other Council assignments, including serving on the Mt. Baker Theatre Board, the Open Space Committee, the Council of Governments, the Parks and Recreation Board, the City/County Emergency Medical and Ambulance Advisory Board, Whatcom 911, and as Liaison to the Port Airport Advisory Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, Louise has served for six years on the Washington State Municipal Research Board, which provides professional consultation, research and information services to local officials in Washington State, and she earned the Advanced Certificate of Municipal Leadership from the Association of Washington Cities, completing over 118 hours of training credits when only 60 hours are required; and

**WHEREAS**, Council Member Bjornson is a strong defender of the environment. She was a reliable supporter of protections for the Lake Whatcom Reservoir, the City's source of drinking water and always advocated for preserving wildlife and salmon habitat; and

**WHEREAS**, Louise celebrated and protected the unique character of each of Bellingham's neighborhoods and paid special attention to the children and elderly who live within them. She fought for retaining neighborhood schools and providing safe routes to schools so children could walk and ride their bikes to school, as well as safe, reliable transportation options for seniors; and

**WHEREAS**, she was appointed by the Governor and served for four years on the Washington State Air Transportation Commission, looking at transportation issues state-wide and advocating for the return of AMTRAK to Bellingham. On the Whatcom Transportation Authority Board, she advocated for more Sunday and evening bus service; and

City Council  
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210 Lottie Street  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
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**WHEREAS**, Louise Bjornson's dedication to protect and enhance the quality of life, so valued by our citizens, was demonstrated by her active involvement in all 3 Greenway initiatives and her well-known tenacity in working toward adding pedestrian amenities, bike lanes, sidewalks and street trees everywhere possible. She was also one of the initiators of the curbside recycling program and helped run it for two years with volunteers. She was on the VISIONS Steering Committee, which brought together over 200 community members to lay the foundation for Bellingham's Comprehensive Plan update and received state awards for citizen participation; and

**WHEREAS**, Louise Bjornson's term will expire on December 31, 2009.

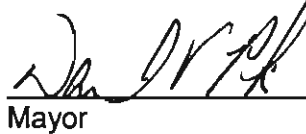
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM:**

The City Council hereby expresses its appreciation and honors Louise Bjornson for her exceptional, record-breaking years in public service, and her dedication to the City of Bellingham and to our wider community.

**PASSED** by the Council this 14th day of December, 2009.


  
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Council President

**APPROVED** by me this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2009.

  
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Mayor

**ATTEST:**   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Finance Director

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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

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