



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

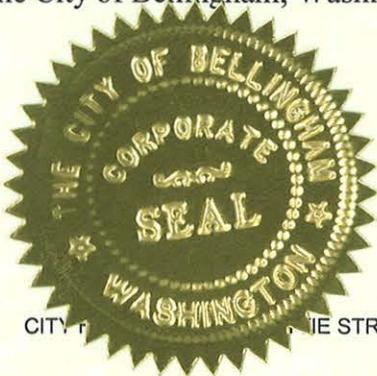
**WHEREAS**, Currently no cures or effective therapies exist, but early diagnosis can help patients and their families use proper medication and nutritional supplements to improve the quality of life, and even prolong life; and

**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 20<sup>th</sup> – 26, 2009 to be

### MITOCHONDRIAL DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK

in the City of Bellingham, Washington.



Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of August 2009.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan V. Pike".

Dan Pike, Mayor  
City of Bellingham