



CITY OF BELLINGHAM
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
DAN PIKE

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Mitochondria are the power plants in every cell of a person's body and create more than 90% of the energy needed by the body to sustain life and growth; and

WHEREAS, Mitochondria may not function correctly due to genetic defects, damage caused by drugs or by destructive molecules called free radicals; and

WHEREAS, When mitochondria fail, cell injury and cell death follow, and if the process is repeated throughout the body, whole systems begin to fail; and

WHEREAS, Mitochondrial diseases can cause isolated symptoms like seizures, low blood counts, blindness, deafness, dementia, heart failure and progressive muscle weakness, but more often they cause failure of several organ system in sequence; and

WHEREAS, Although mitochondrial diseases can affect any person at any age; 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, Since mitochondrial disorders mimic other diseases, it is believed that they are under diagnosed; 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, It is appropriate that all citizens of the State of Washington be better informed about mitochondrial diseases and their impact.

NOW, THEREFORE, DO I, Dan Pike, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, proclaim the week of September 19 – 25, 2010 to be

MITOCHONDRIAL DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK

in the City of Bellingham, Washington.



Signed this 8th day of September 2010.

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

Dan Pike, Mayor
City of Bellingham