



CITY OF BELLINGHAM
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
KELLI LINVILLE

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS Law Day is an occasion of public acknowledgement of our Nation's and State's heritage of justice, liberty and equality under the law;

WHEREAS Law Day has been annually proclaimed by the President of the United States since Dwight D. Eisenhower proclaimed the first Law Day on May 1, 1958;

WHEREAS the United States Congress in 1961 encoded the presidential practice into law, statutorily designating May 1 as Law Day;

WHEREAS the year 2016 marks the 50th anniversary of a milestone in legal history, the United States Supreme Court's landmark 1966 decision in *Miranda v. Arizona*, concluding that statements made by a suspect in police custody are generally inadmissible if the suspect has not been made aware of his or her Fifth and Sixth Amendment rights;

WHEREAS, in response to this decision, law enforcement personnel throughout the country provide a Miranda Warning to suspects in custody apprising them of their right to remain silent, their right to an attorney, and their right to appointed counsel in cases where they cannot afford an attorney;

WHEREAS the criminal justice system still faces many challenges and we must all rededicate ourselves to great goal of ensuring that it provides fair and equal treatment for all;

WHEREAS promoting public understanding of the roots of our freedom are an important component in the civic education of the citizens of the United States and of the state of Washington; and

WHEREAS the American Bar Association has identified the 2016 Law Day theme as "Miranda: More than Words";

WHEREAS Law Day, May 1, 2016, will be commemorated in the City of Bellingham with middle school students participating in a program at Bellingham Municipal Court; and

NOW THEREFORE, DO I, Kelli Linville, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, proclaim May 1, 2016, to be

LAW DAY

in the City of Bellingham, Washington.



Signed this 23rd day of March 2016

Kelli Linville, Mayor
City of Bellingham