

A Resolution of Appreciation to City Councilmembers and Cities

Whereas a representative government of, by, and for the people is foundational to democracy and our Constitutional government; and

Whereas the work of city councilmembers and city staff is challenging and complex, often requiring lengthy discussions with constituents and each other during which councilmembers and staff work to listen calmly, respectfully, and patiently to all voices; and

Whereas forward-looking vision, courage, and a sincere commitment to public service are required to address issues ranging from budget management and building codes to comprehensive planning and managing the consequences of climate change; and

Whereas city councils must make decisions and balance budgets even when consensus is unattainable and some community members will be dissatisfied; and

Whereas public meetings have increasingly become uncivil, with unfiltered remarks by and intentional vitriol from community members and guests that threaten, insult, or demonstrate contempt for councilmembers and city staff; and

Whereas uncivil comments at public meetings have included prejudiced and discriminatory invective based on council and/or community members' race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation and gender identity (LGBTQIA2S+), national origin, disability, medical history, age, or other immutable characteristics and such harassment and hateful rhetoric can be difficult to manage in an open public meeting setting; and

Whereas the city councilmembers and city staff of Bothell, Brier, Kenmore, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, and Woodinville have taken brave, visible steps to welcome and engage constructively with their constituents, promote civility, and strive to demonstrate our community's ability to self-govern in diverse, inclusive, and equitable spaces through their own calm and courageous demeanor,

Therefore Be It Resolved that Washington's First Legislative District Democrats express our appreciation for and support of the City Councilmembers and City Staff of Bothell, Brier, Kenmore, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, and Woodinville, and

Therefore Be It Further Resolved that a copy of this resolution will be sent to the City Councils of Bothell, Brier, Kenmore, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, and Woodinville.

Submitted by Anne Udaloy and Kathy Sharp to 1st LD Issues Committee, June 6, 2024

Recommended DO PASS by the Issues Committee (6 aye, 1 abstention) 6/6/2024