

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, almost 15 percent of school-age children (ages 6-19) have some degree of hearing loss, and nearly 25 percent of those aged 65–74 and 50 percent of those aged 75 and older have significant hearing loss; and

WHEREAS, approximately 60 percent of people with hearing loss are in the work force or in school; and

WHEREAS, hearing loss can lead to communication challenges, isolation, and depression; limit education and access to needed services; and result in loss of functionality in the workplace, reduced earnings, increased falls, and possible progression to dementia; and

WHEREAS, many individuals do not get treatment for hearing loss and others refuse to wear their hearing aids because of a perceived stigma or embarrassment; and

WHEREAS, diagnosis and treatment of hearing loss can vastly improve quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle provides training modules to help employees learn strategies for effective communication with people who are hard of hearing or deaf; and

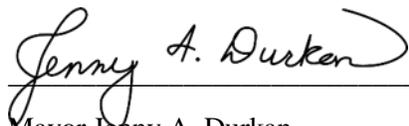
WHEREAS, the City of Seattle has expanded focus on hearing accessibility through captioning at meetings, on video, and in restaurants and other places of public accommodation; and

WHEREAS, hearing loss community advocates observe and celebrate Better Hearing Month, each year during the month of May, to call attention to the fact that hearing loss is widespread and impacts many people in this community directly or because of family, friends, and co-workers with hearing loss; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor of Seattle and Seattle City Council do proclaim May 2021 as

BETTER HEARING MONTH IN SEATTLE

We encourage all Seattle residents to take time this month to talk with family members and medical providers about hearing loss, get a hearing test if one is recommended, wear earplugs to protect hearing when volumes are loud, use microphones and hearing assistive devices at public meetings, and learn about and use best practices when communicating with anyone with hearing loss.



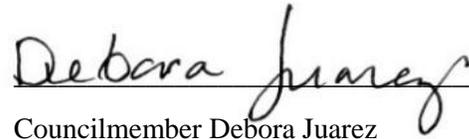
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan



Council President M. Lorena González



Councilmember Lisa Herbold



Councilmember Debora Juarez



Councilmember Tammy J. Morales



Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda



Councilmember Alex Pedersen



Councilmember Kshama Sawant



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