



Joint Proclamation



WHEREAS federal, state, regional and local governments have an interest in promoting improved communication and the use of mediation to settle a wide range of disputes; and

WHEREAS Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham actively promote the use of our community-based dispute resolution center by residents through legislation and funding; and

WHEREAS thousands of community members are served annually by community-based mediators to settle conflicts between family members, neighbors, friends, tenants, landlords, merchants, consumers, employees, employers, civic organizations, and government agencies; and

WHEREAS tax payers in Whatcom County save over \$1 million annually in district and superior court costs of cases that have been settled through mediation rather than court hearings; and

WHEREAS conflict prevention via training and education, and conflict intervention via mediation, conflict coaching, facilitation, and supervised visitation increases the quality of life and opportunity to experience civic harmony for all residents of Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham, and;

WHEREAS the third Thursday of October has been designated as International Conflict Resolution Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, DO WE, Kelli Linville, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, and Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive, proclaim October 2019, to be

COMMUNITY CONFLICT RESOLUTION MONTH

in the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County and encourage all citizens in our community to join in this special observance.

Signed this 6th day of August, 2019

Handwritten signature of Kelli Linville in blue ink.

Kelli Linville, Mayor
City of Bellingham

Handwritten signature of Jack Louws in blue ink.

Jack Louws, County Executive
County of Whatcom

