

# City of Vancouver, Washington

## Proclamation

- WHEREAS, on May 5th, we remember, honor, and take action for the lives of Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirited individuals whose lives have been taken as a result of the ongoing missing and murdered crisis. The silence of tolerance and inaction is being challenged; and
- WHEREAS, Washington State has the second highest rate of missing and murdered Indigenous according to the Urban Indian Health Institute. The risk of rape or sexual assault is 2.5 times higher for Indigenous women than the rest of the country. In addition to these extreme rates of sexual assault and abuse, Indigenous women and girls are murdered at more than 10 times the average national rate, and 70% of these violent victimizations are committed by persons outside of the Indigenous community; and
- WHEREAS, Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit, transgender, and gender non-conforming people continue to be targeted for murder, exploitation, and abduction in Washington's urban, rural, and reservation populations, disappearing at alarming rates with very little public visibility and justice; and
- WHEREAS, there is no comprehensive estimate for the number of Indigenous people who are missing or have been murdered since the beginning of colonization; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver is committed to spreading awareness of our Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit, transgender, and gender non-conforming relatives who have gone missing or have been murdered, tortured, raped, trafficked, and assaulted, and those who have not had the proper attention or justice; and
- WHEREAS, we act in solidarity with our City, State and Nation as we recognize National Day of Awareness & Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit (MMIWG2S), always seeking to build upon and support our Indigenous communities to stop this epidemic and heal within our communities and as a State; and
- WHEREAS, we must continue to bring awareness to the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirited individuals. Only by doing so will we increase accountability of the systems and institutions that have let these crimes go silent and bring justice to the families of the missing and murdered.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Mayor of Vancouver, Washington, do hereby proclaim the 5<sup>th</sup> day in May as:

### **“ National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Persons”**

in the City of Vancouver and urge all community members to keep the spirit alive and take action for all our missing & murdered Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit relatives as we work to end the violence being committed against them.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Vancouver to be affixed this 6th day of May 2024.

*Anne McEnerny-Ogle*  
ANNE McENERNY-OGLE, MAYOR