

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2019, homicide was the fifth leading cause of death for American Indian/Alaska Native males and the seventh leading cause of death for American Indian/Alaska Native females aged 1–54 years; and

WHEREAS, with 71 missing or murdered Indigenous women and girls in 2017, Washington State ranked second worst in the nation, according to the Urban Indian Health Institute, a division of the Seattle Indian Health Board; and

WHEREAS, in Washington as of May 2, 2022, there are 126 missing Indigenous persons, including 65 women and girls, according to the Washington State Patrol; and

WHEREAS, the disappearance and murder of Indigenous women and girls are often directly connected to domestic violence, sexual assault, and human and sex trafficking, and has resulted in a disproportionate level of violence against indigenous women and girls; and

WHEREAS, the lasting effects of colonization and a history of oppressive policies directly correlate to the rise of violence against Indigenous persons, especially women and girls; and

WHEREAS, this violence is in conflict with tribal cultural values and is a threat to tribal sovereignty and compromises Indian country's ability to heal from historical trauma; and

WHEREAS, May 5th is the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls; and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons movement spans the United States and Canada and seeks to bring awareness to the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls that has tragically affected families and communities throughout Indian country; and

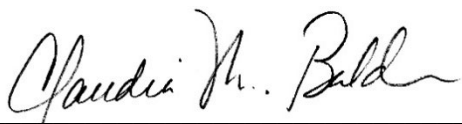
WHEREAS, by standing together and raising awareness, we can promote solutions to prevent and combat the exploitation and violence that many indigenous persons face;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Metropolitan King County Council, proclaim May 2022 as

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Month

and call on all residents of King County to commemorate the lives lost, to educate others on this issue, and to support continued efforts to provide critical protections for Indigenous persons.

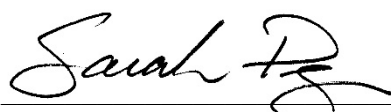
DATED this seventeenth day of May, 2022.



Claudia Balducci, District Six, Council Chair




Rod Dembowski, District One



Sarah Perry, District Three



Dave Upthegrove, District Five, Council Vice Chair



Joe McDermott, District Eight



Girmay Zahlay, District Two, Council Vice Chair



Jeanne Kohl-Welles, District Four



Pete von Reichbauer, District Seven



Reagan Dunn, District Nine