

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL Snohomish County, Washington

RESOLUTION NO. 24-051

RECOGNIZING DECEMBER 1, 2024, AS WORLD AIDS DAY

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day is recognized on December 1st every year to raise awareness of the AIDS pandemic and to mourn those who have died from the disease; and

WHEREAS, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome). HIV attacks the immune system, and unlike many other viruses, the body cannot rid itself of HIV; and

WHEREAS, worldwide in 2023, 1.3 million people were newly infected with HIV, 39.9 million people were living with HIV and 630,000 people died of AIDS-related illnesses—one person every minute; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. theme for 2024 is "Collective Action: Sustain and Accelerated HIV Progress" encapsulating the government's dedication to harnessing the significant progress that has been made through global and domestic HIV programs over the last four-plus decades and without an acceleration of collective efforts and resources, the gains in the HIV response will be jeopardized; and

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County Health Department provides education and prevention programs to help residents understand and reduce risks of getting HIV, including confidential and anonymous HIV testing; and

WHEREAS, populations disproportionately affected by HIV are also often affected by stigma due to, among other things, their gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, race/ethnicity, drug use, or sex work. HIV stigma drives acts of discrimination in all sectors of society, including health care, education, the workplace, the justice system, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, HIV remains an urgent health issue that starts with listening and centering those with HIV. The current global health goal is to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the most recent data from 2023 reported 29 new HIV cases in Snohomish County and 1,340 people were living with HIV/AIDS in Snohomish County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Snohomish County Council recognizes December 1, 2024, as World AIDS Day in Snohomish County.

APPROVED this 27th day of November 2024.

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Council Chair

Sam Low Councilmember

Strom Peterson Councilmember

Nate Nehring Council Vice-Chair

Megan Dunn Councilmember

ATTEST: V

Elena Lao, CMC Deputy Clerk of the Council