

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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*