



CITY OF BELLINGHAM
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
SETH FLEETWOOD

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, congenital heart defects are the most common, frequently occurring birth defect and the leading cause of birth defect related deaths worldwide; and

WHEREAS, every year 40,000 babies are born in the United States with congenital heart defects, and over a million families across America are facing the challenges and hardships of raising children with congenital heart defects; and

WHEREAS, some congenital heart defects are not diagnosed until months or years after birth. Undiagnosed congenital heart conditions cause many cases of sudden cardiac death in youth athletes. Despite these statistics, newborn and young athletes are not routinely screened for congenital heart defects; and

WHEREAS, a disproportionately small amount of funding is available for congenital heart defect research and support. In the United States, twice as many children die from congenital heart defects each year than from all forms of childhood cancer combined, yet funding for pediatric cancer research is five times higher than funding for congenital heart defects; and

WHEREAS, Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week provides an opportunity for affected families to celebrate life, remember loved ones lost, honor dedicated health professionals and raise public awareness about congenital heart defects.

NOW, THEREFORE, DO I, Seth Fleetwood, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, proclaim February 7-14, 2020 as

CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK

in the City of Bellingham.



Signed this 31st day of January, 2020

Seth Fleetwood, Mayor
City of Bellingham