

Proclamation

***Recognizing August 31, 2021 as  
International Overdose Awareness Day***



**WHEREAS**, North America continues to experience the highest drug-related mortality rate in the world, accounting for one in four drug-related deaths globally; and

**WHEREAS**, addiction is a disease, and International Overdose Awareness Day aims to raise awareness of overdose and reduce the stigma of substance use-related deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, International Overdose Awareness Day acknowledges the grief felt by families and friends who have been impacted by this disease; and

**WHEREAS**, this day provides an opportunity for people to publicly mourn for loved ones, some for the first time, without feeling guilt or shame; and

**WHEREAS**, this day seeks to send a strong message to current and former substance users that they are valued and supported; and

**WHEREAS**, this day raises awareness of the need to treat drug-related harm as a public health issue, and invest in practices that save lives and build communities; and

**WHEREAS**, International Overdose Awareness Day provides an opportunity for Monroe residents to stand beside those who have lost loved ones to an overdose, and to support those who have a substance abuse disorder and are diligently working toward recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, the Monroe community has several facilities that provide services for substance abuse such as the Recovery Center at EvergreenHealth Monroe, Ideal Options, and Sea Mar.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor of the City of Monroe, Washington, do hereby recognize August 31, 2021 as

**INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY**

and encourage Monroe's residents and businesses to cultivate a culture of caring and enhanced engagement around addiction; and eliminate the stigma associated with addiction.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Geoffrey Thomas", is written over a horizontal line.

Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor