

Proclamation

***Recognizing August 31, 2023 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, 2023 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