



Proclamation
Honoring Mike Farrell on His Retirement

WHEREAS, Mike Farrell has dedicated 37 years to the field of Parks and Recreation, serving the last 19 years as the first Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Monroe, where his leadership, vision, and dedication have transformed the city's parks and recreational offerings; and

WHEREAS, Mike built the Parks and Recreation Department from the ground up, growing it to 13 full-time employees and six seasonal staff each summer; and

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure, Mike relentlessly championed better parks and expanded recreational opportunities including the development of Wiggly Field Off-Leash Dog Park, Lake Tye Skate Park, Lake Tye Synthetic Fields, multiple Pickleball Courts, and the acquisition of Trombley Hill Park, ensuring a lasting legacy for Monroe residents; and

WHEREAS, Mike played an instrumental role in bringing events to Monroe, including the Music in the Park series, which has fostered a vibrant arts and cultural scene while strengthening community connections; and

WHEREAS, Mike lead the development of Monroe's first Trails Master Plan, which set the foundation for expanding and improving the city's trail system, enhancing access to outdoor recreation and creating safer, more connected pedestrian and cycling routes; and

WHEREAS, Mike worked closely with local organizations, including Monroe Kiwanis, Snohomish County Parks Board, Monroe Rotary, Skyhawks, Little League, and the Sky River Soccer Club, fostering partnerships that strengthened recreational programming and accessibility; and

WHEREAS, his leadership and vision have directly contributed to Monroe's identity as *"a lively center surrounded by nature, a place of beauty and goodwill."* His efforts have ensured that *"our parks, waterways, and environment are healthy and accessible for everyone to enjoy,"* reflecting the community values of inclusivity, connection, and belonging that are central to the *Imagine Monroe* vision; and

WHEREAS, as a mentor and advocate for his staff, Mike fostered a culture of continuous learning, encouraging professional development, ensuring that Monroe's Parks and Recreation Department remained at the forefront of industry best practices; and

WHEREAS, Mike has served as an unsung hero in the field of Parks and Recreation, leading not for personal recognition but out of a deep commitment to public service, prioritizing community needs, and uplifting those around him through his quiet yet transformative leadership.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor of the City of Monroe, Washington, do hereby recognize and express our deepest appreciation to Mike Farrell for his outstanding contributions and dedicated service.

Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor