

Proclamation



Defending Peaceful Expression of Freedoms of Speech and Assembly, Encouraging Peaceful Discourse, and Condemning Actions Threatening Peaceful Expression and Assembly

WHEREAS, over the years the Monroe community has held marches, demonstrations, protests, public gatherings, and vigils, including one mourning the assassination of Charlie Kirk; and

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution's First Amendment ensures a person's freedoms of speech and assembly; and the City of Monroe must and will always defend and protect the peaceful freedom of expression and assembly; and

WHEREAS, the City of Monroe's City Council adopted *Imagine Monroe*, reflects that Monroe is and aspires to be a "*safe place for all, where everyone feels at home and everyone feels they belong;*" and

WHEREAS, expressing thoughts and being together with others as guaranteed by the First Amendment, including the freedoms of speech and assembly, are paramount to simply being human, while also keystones to preserving and protecting democracy; and

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that while peaceful expression and assembly may create tension, the City of Monroe condemns violence and threats against the lives, wellbeing, and livelihood of any person; and further the City of Monroe encourages dialogue among people with differing experiences and perspectives with the goal that our community will grow stronger when people connect in peaceful meaningful dialogue; and

WHEREAS, the City of Monroe, Washington must and will balance freedoms of expression and assembly against words and actions that are violent or threaten a person's life, livelihood, and well-being within the scope of the law.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor of the City of Monroe, Washington, do hereby:

1. Affirm that the City of Monroe is and will always be a community that supports and protects the people's freedom to peacefully express thoughts and assemble; and
2. Condemn violence and actions that threaten a person's freedoms to peacefully express thoughts and assemble, including words and actions that adversely impact a person's life, livelihood, and wellbeing; and
3. Ask that all people in our community defend and support our shared right and freedom to peacefully express our thoughts and assemble even when there is disagreement; and
4. Encourage people to talk with one another, listen to differences in perspective and experience, work to find common ground to the best of our ability, and be willing to engage in peaceful dialogue even when common ground is difficult to find; and
5. Above all, to be peaceful in our expression of our thoughts and in assembly.

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

Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor