

~PROCLAMATION~

WHEREAS, HIV, which had been silently spreading across several continents, finally came to the international medical and science community in the early 1980's; and

WHEREAS, HIV has affected an estimated 77.3 million people worldwide, including some 12,000 in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, HIV/AIDS-related diseases have caused the death of an estimated 35.4 million people worldwide, including some 8,000 in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, early publicity surrounding HIV and AIDS in gay communities across the country has contributed to scaremongering, stigma, and discrimination to this day, although HIV and AIDS spread without discrimination; and

WHEREAS, much progress has been made in the global battle against HIV and AIDS by researchers and activists, in tracking, treating, and preventing HIV, so that now there is much greater chance for persons living with HIV to enjoy longer and healthier lives, and for their intimate partners to stay protected; and

WHEREAS, in some places, the rate of new HIV infections seems to have come to a standstill in very recent years, the Black and Latino communities are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, there are geographical and economic pockets of the world's population who are in urgent need for access to education, resources and treatment; and

WHEREAS, much work is still needed to spread the knowledge of HIV and HIV testing and prevention among adolescents and young adults.

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Dalesandro, Mayor of Battle Ground, do hereby proclaim December 1, 2019, as
"WORLD AIDS DAY"*

in Battle Ground, and I urge the people of Battle Ground to remember those we have lost to HIV/AIDS-related diseases, educate ourselves to end stigma, and get actively involved in the global efforts intellectually, socially, financially, and politically, to support those who are living with HIV/AIDS and to eradicate this health disparity worldwide.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Battle Ground to be affixed this 18th day November 2019.

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

Mayor Mike Dalesandro