Item No. 2(a)

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

PROCLAMATION

Whereas: The City of Bellevue recognizes the importance of honoring our past as we celebrate the future; and

Whereas: Bellevue incorporated on March 31, 1953 with a population of 5,940 across four square miles of land; and

Whereas: For thousands of years before, the area was inhabited by Salish Indians, followed by pioneer settlers who homesteaded along the eastern shores of Lake Washington in the 1860s; and

Whereas: Bellevue traces its roots to an agricultural past, attracting attention for its fertile berry fields and truck farming industry; and

Whereas: With the opening of the first Lake Washington floating bridge in 1940, farms gave way to residential neighborhoods and urban growth; and

Whereas: Through a program of strategic annexations, the city is now 31 square miles of land, stretching from Lake Washington to Lake Sammamish, with a population of more than 130,000; and

Whereas: With careful planning, the city has developed its downtown core into a major business, retail and residential center while retaining a small-town feel with thriving, woodsy neighborhoods; and

Whereas: Bellevue has grown into a regional employment center with more than 140,000 jobs, and is recognized for its excellent schools, beautiful parks and safe streets; and

Whereas: Bellevue is one of the state's most diverse cities, with minorities comprising 41 percent of Bellevue's population;

Now, therefore, I, Conrad Lee, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby celebrate:

The City of Bellevue's 60th anniversary

And I encourage all residents to be inspired by our community's history and support the City Council and city staff in their efforts to achieve excellence by delivering the highest quality of public services.

Conrad Lee