

## Joint Proclamation



*Whereas* federal, state, regional, and local governments have an interest in promoting improved communication and the use of mediation to settle a wide range of disputes; and

*Whereas* Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham actively promote the use of our community-based dispute resolution center by residents through legislation and funding; and

*Whereas* thousands of community members are served annually by community-based mediators to settle conflicts between family members, neighbors, friends, tenants, landlords, merchants, consumers, employees, employers, civic organizations, and government agencies; and

*Whereas* Whatcom County taxpayers, residents at large, families, schools, workplaces, and municipalities benefit greatly from the financial cost savings achieved when disputes are diverted from the Court system and settled amicably, affordably, and confidentially; and

*Whereas* conflict prevention via training and education, and conflict intervention via mediation, conflict coaching, facilitation, and supervised visitation increases the quality of life and opportunity to experience civic harmony for all residents of Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham, and;

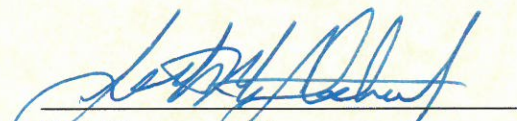
*Whereas* the third Thursday in October has been designated as International Conflict Resolution Day;

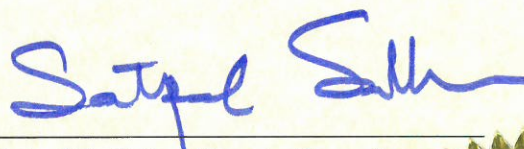
*Now, Therefore, Do We*, Seth Fleetwood, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, and Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive, hereby proclaim October 2020 to be

### Community Conflict Resolution Month

in the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County and encourage all people in our community to join in this special observance.

Signed this 29<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020

  
Seth Fleetwood, Mayor  
City of Bellingham

  
Satpal S. Sidhu, County Executive  
County of Whatcom

