

# PROCLAMATION

## Nowruz Proclamation (2023)

WHEREAS, Nowruz, meaning “New Day,” marks the vernal equinox in the northern hemisphere, and is the first day of the Persian New Year; and

WHEREAS, Nowruz, originated in ancient Persia more than 3,000 years ago and is celebrated by nearly 300 million people of different faiths and cultures across the globe, from Western, Central and South Asia to the Caucuses, Black Sea Basin and the Balkans; and

WHEREAS, Nowruz, as the embodiment of centuries-long traditions, promotes values of peace and solidarity and symbolizes a time of renewal and community, marking the departure from the trials of the previous year and bringing hope for the new year; and

WHEREAS, in times where mistrust and fear often threaten to divide us, the spirit of Nowruz inspires us to realize our commonalities and strive for new levels of compassion, understanding, and love for our fellow human beings irrespective of religion or ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, the people of Iran and Afghanistan have experienced a devastating year marked by violent repression and destruction, death and persecution, and protests demanding basic human rights and democracy; and

WHEREAS, the Iranian community in Seattle and across the world have demonstrated to uplift the voices of courageous Iranian women and men, and support the ongoing movement of *Woman, Life, Freedom*; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of Afghans have had to flee persecution and over 5,000 of them are rebuilding their lives in Washington state, including in the Seattle area; and

WHEREAS, the Iranian-American and Afghan-American communities in Seattle, like many other communities who celebrate Nowruz, consist of inspiring residents who work every day to make our city a better place for all; and

WHEREAS, Nowruz presents a fitting opportunity to recognize these contributions and the resilience of the Iranian-American and Afghan-American communities; and

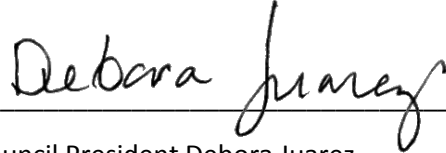
WHEREAS, the City of Seattle supports the Iranian and Afghan people fighting for justice and freedom, and stands with the Iranian-American and Afghan-American communities amplifying their voice;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Seattle City Council and Mayor, standing with the communities that celebrate Nowruz and wishing a happy and prosperous new year to all, do hereby proclaim March 20, 2023 to be

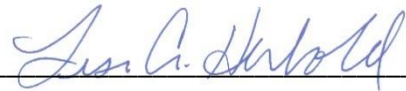
**Day of Nowruz**



Mayor Bruce A. Harrell



Council President Debora Juarez



Councilmember Lisa Herbold



Councilmember Andrew J. Lewis



Councilmember Tammy J. Morales



Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda



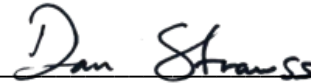
Councilmember Sara Nelson



Councilmember Alex Pedersen



Councilmember Kshama Sawant



Councilmember Dan Strauss