



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 2011, an estimated 43,030 people will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in the United States and 37,660 will die from the disease;

WHEREAS, pancreatic cancer is one of the deadliest cancers and is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States;

WHEREAS, when symptoms of pancreatic cancer present themselves, it is usually too late for an optimistic prognosis, and 74 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within the first year of their diagnosis while 94 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within the first five years;

WHEREAS, of all the racial/ethnic groups in the United States, African Americans have the highest incidence rate of pancreatic cancer, between 34 percent and 70 percent higher than the other groups;

WHEREAS, approximately 760 deaths will occur in Washington State in 2011;

WHEREAS, there is no cure for pancreatic cancer and there have been no significant improvements in survival rates in the last 40 years;

WHEREAS, the Federal Government invests significantly less money in pancreatic cancer research than it does in any of the other leading cancer killers; and pancreatic cancer research constitutes only approximately 2 percent of the National Cancer Institute's federal research funding, a figure far too low given the severity of the disease, its mortality rate, and how little is known about how to arrest it; and

WHEREAS, the Pancreatic Cancer Research & Education Act (S. 362/H.R. 733) requires that the National Cancer Institute develop a strategic plan for combating pancreatic cancer.

WHEREAS, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is the first and only national patient advocacy organization that serves the pancreatic cancer community in Bainbridge Island, Washington and nationwide by focusing its efforts on public policy, research funding, patient services, and public awareness and education related to developing effective treatments and a cure for pancreatic cancer;

WHEREAS, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and its affiliates in Bainbridge Island, Washington support those patients currently battling pancreatic cancer, as well as to those who have lost their lives to the disease, and are committed to nothing less than a cure;

WHEREAS, the good health and well-being of the residents of Bainbridge Island, Washington are enhanced as a direct result of increased awareness about pancreatic cancer and research into early detection, causes, and effective treatments; therefore be it

NOW, THEREFORE, I Kirsten Hytopoulos, Mayor of the City of Bainbridge Island, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of November 2011 as

Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month

on Bainbridge Island, and encourage our citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and school to participate in statewide effects to increase awareness.

SIGNED this 15th day of November, 2011

Kirsten Hytopoulos, Mayor

