



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Safe Place is a program that quickly connects runaway and homeless youth ages 12-17 to services, either by reuniting them with their family or providing them with emergency shelter, that began in 1983 and has grown to include nearly 140 programs nationally, including within King County; and

WHEREAS, more than 359,000 youth have been helped at a Safe Place location or received counseling as a result of Safe Place information received at school; and

WHEREAS, since program inception in 1983, more than 15 million youth have been educated through National Safe Place Network's Safe Place outreach efforts, familiarizing them with the Safe Place sign and providing them with information about how to seek help in order to stay safe; and

WHEREAS, Safe Place maintains a 24-hour hotline, 1-800-422-TEEN, where youth can directly connect with Safe Place staff; and within one hour, a Safe Place coordinator meets with the youth, assesses the situation, and works with the youth to place them at a shelter or reunite with parents or guardians; and

WHEREAS, Friends of Youth and YouthCare have run in partnership since 2012 to provide Safe Place services for youth in crisis across King County; and

WHEREAS, Metro buses, local businesses and non-profit organizations number among the over 2,100 places in King County that have volunteered to serve as locations where youth can go and request assistance and where staff members are trained to respond to youth in need and immediately contact Safe Place; and

WHEREAS, the success of Safe Place is based on public/private collaborations, and Shoreline/King County needs increased numbers of community volunteers serving as mentors and positive influences on young people; and

WHEREAS, increased awareness will encourage more communities to establish Safe Place locations where youth can readily access the help they need; and

WHEREAS, National Safe Place Week will be celebrated across the nation during the week of March 15 through March 21, 2020;

Now, Therefore, I, Will Hall, Mayor of the City of Shoreline, on behalf of the Shoreline City Council, do hereby proclaim the week of March 15 through March 21, 2020, as

NATIONAL SAFE PLACE WEEK

and call upon the people of Shoreline to promote awareness of, and volunteer involvement in, the Safe Place program; and observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.



Will Hall, Mayor