

**DES MOINES POOL METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

**HONORING JAMES ELLIS
PROCLAMATION 2025-04**

WHEREAS, the Mount Rainier Pool, established in 1975, stands as a lasting symbol of the vision and civic leadership that shaped King County’s public infrastructure during the late 20th century; and

WHEREAS, the pool was made possible through the Forward Thrust initiative — a series of public investment programs approved by voters in 1968 and 1970 that brought lasting benefit to generations of King County residents; and

WHEREAS, the late James R. Ellis, a respected attorney, civic leader, and visionary, served as the driving force behind the Forward Thrust movement, passionately advocating for community well-being through parks, open spaces, public transportation, and recreational facilities such as the Mount Rainier Pool; and

WHEREAS, James Ellis believed that public investment in community assets was not only a matter of infrastructure, but of equity, access, and civic pride — a belief that continues to guide our mission today; and


WHEREAS, his leadership helped create a regional legacy of over 17 public pools across King County, many of which — including Mount Rainier Pool — still serve as vital “third places” for health, learning, safety, and connection; and

WHEREAS, the Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District, on the occasion of the pool’s 50th Anniversary, recognizes the extraordinary foresight and dedication of James Ellis and those who stood alongside him to ensure that every community had access to quality aquatic spaces;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District Board of Commissioners does hereby **honor the life and legacy of James R. Ellis**, and proclaims:

- That this 50th Anniversary celebration is dedicated in his memory,
- That his contributions to King County and our local community will never be forgotten,
- That the plaque unveiled today at the Mount Rainier Pool shall stand as a tribute to his vision for healthy, connected communities, **and**
- That **beginning in 2026, and the second Saturday of each September**, the Mount Rainier Pool will offer **free public access to the community** in celebration of James Ellis and the enduring spirit of the Forward Thrust movement.

Adoption: ADOPTED by the **Board of Commissioners** of the **Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District** at an open meeting of such Board on the **9th of September 2025**, the following Commissioners being present and voting.

Signed by: 
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President Young

Signed by: 
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Commissioner Dusenbury

Signed by: 
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
Commissioner Campbell

Signed by: 
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Commissioner Stender

Signed by: 
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Commissioner Thorell

Signed by: 
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District Clerk Melum