

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

**MAY IS WATER SAFETY MONTH
PROCLAMATION 2025-02**

WHEREAS, the City of Des Moines and surrounding South King County communities are surrounded by aquatic environments, including Puget Sound, lakes, rivers, and pools that offer recreation, health benefits, and community connection; and

WHEREAS, swimming and water-related activities become increasingly popular during the summer months, especially among children and families seeking relief, fun, and fitness; and

WHEREAS, drowning remains a **leading cause of accidental death** among children and teens, both statewide and nationally, and youth who are **low-income, non-swimmers, or youth of color** are at significantly **higher risk** for drowning; and

WHEREAS, national statistics show that **Black youth are 5.5 times more likely to drown** than their white peers, and **79% of youth in families earning less than \$50,000 annually** have little to no swim ability, creating critical barriers to both safety and access to recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District is committed to reducing these risks by offering **free and low-cost swim instruction, free lifeguard training for teens, and inclusive water safety programs** that help bridge racial, economic, and generational gaps in aquatic access and education; and

WHEREAS, through partnerships with local schools, families, and King County Parks grant programs, the Mount Rainier Pool has become a trusted, inclusive, and life-saving community hub that prepares youth for safe summers and long-term wellness; and

WHEREAS, May is the ideal month to raise awareness about the importance of learning to swim, wearing life jackets in open water, and ensuring all members of our community—regardless of background—have access to water safety education;

NOW, THEREFORE, the **Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District** hereby proclaims **May 2025 as Water Safety Month** throughout the City of Des Moines and surrounding areas, and encourages all residents, families, and local organizations to join in promoting water safety, preventing drowning, and preparing every child and adult for a safer summer in and around the water.

Adoption: ADOPTED by the **Board of Commissioners** of the **Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District** at an open meeting of such Board on the **22nd of April 2025**, the following Commissioners being present and voting.

Signed by:
Shane Young
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President Young

Signed by:
Joe Dusenbury
5E8DDA8890F2474...

Commissioner Dusenbury

Signed by:
Holly Campbell
9E998B2BF87C43B...

Commissioner Campbell

Signed by:
Shane Stender
69BA2573814E48C...

Commissioner Stender

Signed by:
Patrice Thorell
F7C00E82D822491...

Commissioner Thorell

Signed by:
Angela Melan
C55003FA1BEA421...

District Clerk