

**PROCLAMATION
"FOR OUR KIDS TOBACCO FREE PARKS"**

WHEREAS, scientific research has shown that environmental tobacco smoke, also known as second smoke, is a contributing factor to lung cancer, cardiovascular disease and emphysema in the non-smoker; and,

WHEREAS, the EPA has classified Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) as a Group A humans carcinogen, a category which includes only the most potent cancer causing agents, like benzene, vinyl chloride, asbestos and arsenic; and,

WHEREAS, each year, because of exposure to secondhand smoke, an estimated 3,000 nonsmoking Americans die of lung cancer, and 150,000 to 300,000 children suffer from lower respiratory tract infections; and,

WHEREAS, the simple separation of smokers and nonsmokers within the same airspace may reduce, but does not eliminate the exposure of the nonsmoker to secondhand smoke; and,

WHEREAS, all City public buildings and Monroe School District facilities are smoke free and the City of Monroe recognizes its role in protecting the health of the general public and safety of outdoor public areas, it is our duty to educate our citizens on the perils of tobacco use; and,

WHEREAS, children's vulnerability to Environmental Tobacco Smoke and the difficulty they have in protecting themselves from a threat imposed by adults, places the burden of reducing or eliminating Environmental Smoke exposure on adults in protective capacities; and,

WHEREAS, the City operates many parks and outdoor events throughout the greater Monroe area and encourages use of each facility in a safe and healthy manner; and all park use policies are established by the Park Board which has recommended an educational campaign in cooperation with the Snohomish Health District requesting park patrons to not smoke or use tobacco products near park playgrounds, trails and ball-fields by the installation of "For the Kids-Tobacco Free Parks" signage:

NOW, THEREFORE, I Donnetta Walser, Mayor of the City of Monroe, do hereby proclaim April 2, 2003, as the kick-off date of the

"FOR OUR KIDS-TOBACCO FREE PARKS"

education program in an effort to protect children from the harmful effects of environmental tobacco smoke.

Donnetta Walser, Mayor