

## RESOLUTION NO. 2023-09

### **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PILOT CROSSWALK ART INSTALLATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF A FORMAL POLICY FOR FUTURE INSTALLATIONS.**

**WHEREAS**, the City has a duty and responsibility to ensure pedestrian, bicyclists and motor vehicles safety on public roadways through effective and uniform application of traffic control devices; and

**WHEREAS**, the City adopts and uses the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices and other guidance from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the installation of traffic control devices ; and

**WHEREAS**, crosswalks are considered a regulated traffic control device; and

**WHEREAS**, the City currently allows for art installations at intersections funded and installed by neighborhood groups following a permit review process provided said installations do not alter or impact existing traffic controls such as crosswalks; and

**WHEREAS**, studies conducted into the pedestrian and bicycle safety have shown there can be a safety benefit derived from art installations on public roadways when installed at or near crosswalks; and

**WHEREAS**, the City desires to encourage pedestrian safety and provide and encourage traffic calming; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 29, 2022, the City Council, by motion, directed the Transportation Commission, with staff support, to study neighborhood traffic programs in other communities, explore connections to ongoing updates on the Bike and Pedestrian plans and to consider equity and provide policy/program recommendations to the City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, special painted crosswalks can be used to showcase a community's unique culture and history or just liven up an intersection with artistic and colorful artwork; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council declares and affirms that art painted on public roadways owned or managed by the City of Bellingham are not intended to serve as a forum for free expression by the public, but rather as a non-public forum for transportation use that can be also used for the expression of the City's official government speech; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bellingham supports and encourages, by official policy contained in the Council Adopted Legacies and Strategic Commitments efforts to: Cultivate respect and appreciation for diversity, Support a sense of place in neighborhoods, Ensure safe infrastructure, Increase infrastructure for bicycles, pedestrians and non-single occupancy vehicle modes of transportation, and Enhance publicly owned assets; and

**WHEREAS**, the month of June is commonly accepted as pride month and the City Council has previously authorized the Mayor to order raising of the PRIDE Commemorative Flag in

support of the LGBTQ+ community, in celebration of PRIDE events, and as a statement to the public that discrimination, harassment and harm to LGBTQ+ individuals is not acceptable and will not be tolerated; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that it is in the best interests of the City and its residents to develop a formal policy to allow limited artwork and markings within crosswalks in some public rights-of-way and where appropriate to allow for, or require, community groups and residents to help through monetary contributions and volunteer efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is desirous to enhance an existing crosswalk in June of 2023 as a pilot project to inform and aid in the development of a formal policy.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM THAT:**

1. The Mayor is authorized to take any necessary action, within the existing authorized 2023-2024 budget, to install decorative art and markings at the existing crosswalk located on Cornwall Avenue between Holly Street and Magnolia Street. The art installation shall be emblematic of the PRIDE commemorative flag in support of inclusion, diversity and equity for all, in conjunction with celebrations in June 2023 and shall conform to requirements set by the City Traffic Engineer. Acceptance of funding through donations from local, community non-profit groups or Bellingham neighborhood associations for the installation is also authorized.

2. The Transportation Commission is asked to develop recommendations on policy to allow for other decoration or art to be added to existing crosswalks, on some roadways, as an element of the neighborhood traffic policy currently being considered.

**PASSED** by the Council this 5th day of June, 2023.

  
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Council President

**APPROVED** by me this 13th day of June, 2023.

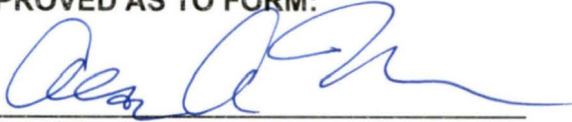
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Finance Director

Resolution Crosswalk Art (2)

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APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Office of the City Attorney