

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-31

A RESOLUTION HONORING KRISTINA MICHELE MARTENS FOR HER SERVICE TO THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM

WHEREAS, Kristina Michele Martens has served the City of Bellingham with distinction and dedication as the At-Large City Council Member since 2022; and

WHEREAS, Kristina served on the Public Works and Natural Resources Committee, the Community and Economic Development Committee, and acted as the chair of the Climate Action Committee; and

WHEREAS, Kristina represented the Council on several boards, commissions, and liaison positions including: the Community Development Advisory Board, the Immigration Advisory Board, the Library Board of Trustees, the Whatcom Council of Governments, the Sister Cities Advisory Board, and by acting as the higher education liaison for the Council; and

WHEREAS, Kristina is the first Black woman to serve on the Bellingham City Council; and

WHEREAS, Kristina has been a steadfast advocate for historically underserved communities and has worked to bring their needs to the forefront of policy; and

WHEREAS, Kristina has been an unwavering voice for the concerns of residential renters, and an advocate for greater oversight of residential tenant health, safety, and fairness; and

WHEREAS, Kristina was an organizer and key speaker at the 2020 Bellingham Black Lives Matter rally, uniting a crowd of hundreds of Bellingham residents around the cause of racial justice; and

WHEREAS, Kristina was heavily involved in many other community events during her tenure on the City Council, including events in recognition of Juneteenth and Martin Luther King Jr. Day; and

WHEREAS, Kristina was an essential part of the small team that developed and oversaw the creation of the Whatcom County Racial Equity Commission, which aims to bring together local elected officials, leaders from local nonprofits, and community organizers in conversations about how to design specific policies to achieve real racial equity in Whatcom County; and

WHEREAS, Kristina never shied away from standing in solidarity with community members by bringing forward resolutions on behalf of those she served, casting dissenting votes, and speaking with candor and compassion at Council meetings and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, Kristina was frequently seen commuting by foot to City Hall and to meetings around town – truly “walking the walk”; and,


WHEREAS, Kristina inspired her fellow Councilmembers to maintain focus on what they could accomplish as a body and encouraged them to be mindful of the power of their words and actions; and

WHEREAS, Council is hopeful that Kristina will continue to be active in community issues and is certain that the City of Bellingham will be better for it.

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

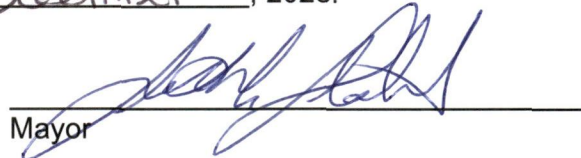
The City Council hereby expresses its appreciation and honors Kristina Michele Martens for her leadership, public service, and dedication to the people of the City of Bellingham and to our wider community.

PASSED by the Council this 11th day of December, 2023.



Council President

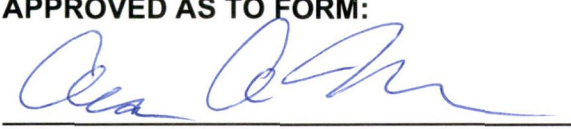
APPROVED by me this 21 day of December, 2023.



Mayor

ATTEST: 

Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Office of the City Attorney