PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 2012, an estimated 43,920 people will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in the United States and 37,390 will die from the disease; and

WHEREAS, pancreatic cancer is one of the deadliest cancers, is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States, and is the only major cancer with a five-year relative survival rate in the single digits at just six percent; and

WHEREAS, when symptoms of pancreatic cancer present themselves, it is usually too late for an optimistic prognosis, and 74 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within the first year of their diagnosis while 94 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within the first five years; and

WHEREAS, of all the racial/ethnic groups in the United States, African Americans have the highest incidence rate of pancreatic cancer, between 34 percent and 70 percent higher than the other groups; and

WHEREAS, approximately 810 deaths will occur in Washington in 2012; and

WHEREAS, there is no cure for pancreatic cancer and there have been no significant improvements in survival rates in the last 40 years; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government invests significantly less money in pancreatic cancer research than it does in any of the other leading cancer killers; and pancreatic cancer research constitutes only approximately 2 percent of the National Cancer Institute's federal research funding, a figure far too low given the severity of the disease, its mortality rate, and how little is known about how to arrest it; and

WHEREAS, the Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act (S. 362/H.R. 733), (formerly the Pancreatic Cancer Research & Education Act) requires that the National Cancer Institute develop a strategic plan for combating pancreatic cancer; and other lesser known cancers where the 5-year Survival rate is less than 50%; and

WHEREAS, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is the first and only national patient advocacy organization that serves the pancreatic cancer community in Port Orchard, WA, Kitsap County and nationwide by focusing its efforts on public policy, research funding, patient services, and public awareness and education related to developing effective treatments and a cure for pancreatic cancer; and

WHEREAS, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and its affiliates in Port Orchard, WA, Kitsap County support those patients currently battling pancreatic cancer, as well as to those who have lost their lives to the disease, and are committed to nothing less than a cure; and

WHEREAS, the good health and well-being of the residents of Port Orchard, WA, Kitsap County are enhanced as a direct result of increased awareness about pancreatic cancer and research into early detection, causes, and effective treatments; therefore be it

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Timothy C. Matthes, Mayor of the City of Port Orchard, designate the month of November as

PANCREATIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

in the City of Port Orchard, and I call upon and encourage all employees and citizens of the City of Port Orchard to observe this month with appropriate recognition thereof.

Signed the 13th day of November 2012

Timothy C. Matthes, Mayor