

City of Seattle • Seattle City Council

# PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, On December 3, 1984, an industrial disaster occurred in Bhopal, India, when a Union Carbide Corporation chemical plant leaked chemicals killing more than 7,000 people within three days, causing over 15,000 deaths since, and poisoning more than 500,000 people; and

WHEREAS, nearly 80% of those exposed came from poor, working class families; and

WHEREAS, at least 120,000 people are chronically ill and 30 people die monthly from the long-term effects; and

WHEREAS, Union Carbide and their new owner, Dow Chemical, have not released medical research on the health effects of the gases to treating physicians, classified the information as a "trade secret;" and

WHEREAS, in 1987 India's Central Bureau of Investigation charged the Union Carbide Corporation with manslaughter among other offences and legal action between Union Carbide and India resulted in a 1989 financial settlement for \$470 million; and

WHEREAS, in February 2001, Dow Chemical acquired Union Carbide as a wholly owned subsidiary, with the understanding that Union Carbide's pending liabilities per merger law would be assumed by Dow; and

WHEREAS, Union Carbide Corporation has not addressed the clean up of its toxic wastes in Bhopal, and its new owner, Dow Chemical, has argued that they should not be held liable for clean up; and

WHEREAS, 20,000 people in the vicinity of the factory continue to be exposed to carcinogenic and mutagenic chemicals abandoned by Union Carbide; and

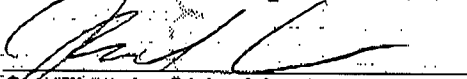
WHEREAS, Dow set aside \$2.2 billion in 2002 to resolve Union Carbide's asbestos liabilities in Texas; and

WHEREAS, Dow has not assumed Union Carbide's environmental and criminal liabilities in Bhopal and considers Union Carbide to be a separate company; and

WHEREAS, Seattle aims for environmental stewardship and sustainability; passing numerous legislation for limiting the release of toxins into the environment, including Ordinance 120121 to reduce toxic substances used by governments, corporation and families; and Resolutions 30316 and 30487 to support the efforts to curb global warming and the plans to reduce toxic chemicals.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL, THAT DECEMBER 3, THE 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BHOPAL CHEMICAL DISASTER, IS BHOPAL REMEMBRANCE DAY

Council President Jan Drago



Councilmember Richard Conlin



Councilmember Jean Godden

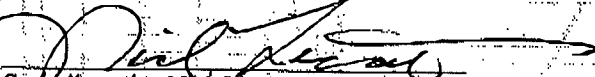


Councilmember Peter Steinbrueck

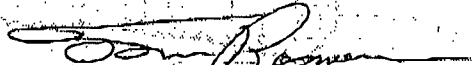
Councilmember Jim Compton



Councilmember David J. Della



Councilmember Nick Licata



Councilmember Tom Rasmussen

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